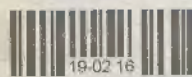


SOCCER



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WEEKLY

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GST INCLUSIVE



PICTURE WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS ... Newcastle Utd's defender, Andy Roberts (left) stands exhausted beside Olympic Sharks' Lindsay Wilson at the end of the thrilling 1-1 Round 19 showdown at Toyota Park, Cronulla, Sydney last Sunday.

KNIGHTS' CHAIRMAN QUILTS

By Bert van Bedaf

On or off the field, there's never a dull moment at NSL club Melbourne Knights. Within a week, the Knights lost their chairman, their team manager and again won away from home, beating Marconi Stallions 3-1 in Sydney last Saturday night.

The win lifted the Somers St side back into the top six and with a good chance of making the finals in May. With seven rounds remaining, including a bye, the Knights face Perth, the Kingz, Sydney United, Wollongong, Northern Spirit and Parramatta.

As far as off field moved go, Knights chairman Harry Mrksa resigned last week, citing business pressures as the reason.

Team manager John Sigur also used business pressures as the reason for his departure. Sigur will become a director on the Knights board.

Mrksa has been an abrasive presence and a thorn in the eyes of Soccer Australia for a long time. "I wonder whether my clashes with Soccer Australia made me a liability to the Knights," Mrksa wondered last week.

He virtually signalled his departure some time ago when he confessed, "I have been thinking that I should quit. If I can't get the Knights out of trouble, then what am I here for?"

Mrksa biggest clash was with former SA chairman David Hill over the so-called "ethnic cleansing" issue.

But he also managed to upset former Victorian Soccer Federation chairman Joe Brondolino in the SA chairmanship race two years ago. An SA commissioner, Brondolino thought he had Mrksa's vote, but at the count the Victorian came up short and Tony Labozetta became chairman. He was later deposed by current SA chairman Ian Knop.

Mrksa also sacked Knights coach Vlado Vanis last season. Vanis had put the Knights into the top six, but what was believed to be a personality clash ended Vanis's tenure. Andrew Marth took over and was reappointed this season.

Stalwart Ange Cimera will take over from Mrksa, while another prominent clubman Steve Mandekic again will become president. Sigur's assistant Mira Kustura will take over as team manager.



Harry Mrksa

TASSIE MAKES NSL HISTORY

By Bert van Bedaf

Considering the Melbourne Knights have such a poor record at home, it might not be such a bad idea for them to play Perth Glory in Tasmania on Saturday night.

This is the first time a national league game will be held on the Apple Isle and local fans are keenly anticipating the event.

"We are entering uncharted waters with the NSL promotion, but all we can ask for is the support of Tasmanians to attend the game," Soccer Tasmania chief executive David Smith said.

It promises to be a top match between two of the best sides in the league. Perth are the runaway leaders, while the Knights have jumped to fifth spot after beating Marconi Stallions 3-1 away last Saturday.

After last season's attack on Perth players and former coach Bernd Stange, following a finals game between the two teams at Knights stadium, Soccer Australia decreed the game should be played away from the Knights home.

The Knights will play their 'home' game at York Park in Launceston, which is not such a bad choice.

The city is buzzing with activities from Aussie Rules football

(Wizard Cup and AFL) to art festivals, boosting local commerce.

The Knights (and therefore also Perth) will be part of what could be a serious foray for soccer into a receptive market. Success could see more NSL matches played in Tasmania.

With his team's better away record, Knights captain-coach Andrew Marth is looking forward to it. Nevertheless, the Knights lost 2-0 in Perth in round 7 and they're keen to get a result this time.

The Glory might be without controversial striker Bobby Despotovski, who has been struggling with a hip injury.

Despotovski's provocative Serbian salute (to the Knights'

Croatian-heritage supporters) caused the post-match riot at Knights stadium last season.

The Glory striker also tangled with Marth in the return final in Perth, which resulted in Marth being sent off for retaliating. Despite the send-off, the Knights knocked Perth out of the finals race.

"We can look forward to this game. I certainly believe Perth Glory is beatable," Marth commented.

If the experiment works out, regular games could be staged in Hobart next season and Soccer Australia chairman Ian Knop (as well as national coach Frank Farina) will attend the historic

match to assess the situation.

Tasmanians are as sports loving as mainland Australians. Cricket, golf, tennis, racing, cycling and soccer have a strong following. It would not be such a far-fetched idea to see a future Tasmanian Devils (Tigers or Demons) team in the national league.

Hundreds of fans are expected to fly from Melbourne and Perth to Launceston, while local fans are set to turn up in thousands. A crowd of 5,000 would be regarded as a good, first-up attendance.

The Knights and Perth will bring large squads and hold several youth clinics.

There will also be a 5.30pm curtain raiser between the Knights

and Tasmanian U23 sides.

Meanwhile, South Melbourne is also away, visiting Parramatta Power. The Lakesiders are on a roll in eighth spot and five points out of the top six.

South will be on the road for the next three games (after the Power come Newcastle and Adelaide), but coach Eddie Krncevic is not concerned.

"It might not be such a bad thing. Teams might come at us a bit more," Krncevic said.

"Teams have been sitting back and it's a sign they have respect for us and they should. We're playing some good football," he said.

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Power boss, Fitzgerald unveiled

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Steve Corica: Goodbye Hiroshima, Hello Walsall, Corica back in the English game.

Blatsis trials with Norwegian team in Spain

Ousted Derby defender Con Blatsis has joined Norwegian team Lillestrom in Spain for their pre-season camp days after ending his contract with the English outfit.

Blatsis was rumoured to be on his way back to Australia, before the Norwegian

runners-up stepped in to offer the 24 year old a trial.

The former South Melbourne star who joined the Rams in 2000 for £150 000 started only two matches in his time with the club and was one of the first casualties of new manager John Gregory.



Con Blatsis: Had a rough time in England but hopes to resurrect his football career in Norway.

Canberra Eclipse on the Rise

By Graham Cooke

Canberra Eclipse players have been awarded eight of the 20 women's soccer scholarships announced by the Australian Institute of Sport last week.

The eight are Sacha Wainwright, Amy Wilson, Peita-Clare Hepperlin, Rhian Davies, Amy

Taylor, Gill Thomson, Tal Karp and Sue Read.

Of the group, Wainwright is most experienced with 37 international caps, Davies and Thomson made their senior international debuts in the recent Australia Cup series, while Olympians Wilson and Hepperlin were unlucky to miss out on the Australia Cup but now have an opportunity to work their

way back into selection.

The squad comes together with the 2003 World Cup as the target. The qualifiers will be played in November.

The number selected reflects the change in fortunes for the Eclipse who finished bottom on the Women's National Soccer League last season but are finals contenders this time round.

Corica's English move led by Ex Wolves Man

Steve Corica's move to English First Division side Walsall was influenced heavily by his former teammate and now manager of the Saddlers Colin Lee.

Lee worked with Corica at Wolves and Leicester City before the Australian midfielder moved to Sanfrecce Hiroshima. "Steve is a player that I have worked with

before and will become a valuable member of the squad...he is someone who can play in various positions and has experience at this level" Lee told the club's website.

Corica added: "I am delighted to be back in the English game. I have a tremendous amount of respect for Colin Lee and it will be good to work with him again."

Sterjovski's strike keeps Lille on track

Ex-Parramatta Power and Sydney United player Mile Sterjovski was Lille's hero with in their 1-nil win over Nantes in the French Championnat.

The Socceroos midfielder was on target in the 70th minute to give the visiting side victory and on track for a spot in Europe.



Mile Sterjovski: Scorer of Lille's only goal.

2002 AIS SOCCER SQUAD ANNOUNCED

The 2002 AIS women's squad had been announced to the media last week. The strong squad made up of 19 members will lead a new look Australian women's side that sees three new inclusions enter the squad.

Coach Adrian Santrac will use this squad as a key indicator in selecting the new 'Matildas', in preparation for the all-important Oceania World Cup Qualifiers in November.



Adrian Santrac: Coach of the AIS women's squad.

AIS Women's Soccer Scholarship Athletes:

Claire Nichols	Queensland Sting
Sue Read	Canberra Eclipse
Rhian Davies	Canberra Eclipse
Kate McShea	Queensland Sting
Zoe Nolan	Queensland Sting
Cheryl Salisbury	Adelaide Sensation
Anissa Tann	NSW Sapphires
Amy Taylor	Canberra Eclipse
Sacha Wainwright	Canberra Eclipse
Alicia Ferguson	Queensland Sting
Heather Garriock	NSW Sapphires
Peita - Claire Hepperlin	Canberra Eclipse
Olivia Hohnke	Queensland Sting
Tal Karp	Canberra Eclipse
Joanne Peters	NSW Sapphires
Natalie Thomas	Queensland Sting
Gill Thomson	Canberra Eclipse
Kelly Golebiowski	NSW Sapphires
April Mann	Queensland Sting
Amy Wilson	Canberra Eclipse

\$7m FACELIFT FOR PERTH OVAL

By Richard Kreider

Perth Glory and soccer fans in general will have greeted the latest news about soccer finally having a home with open arms following the WA State Government's commitment of almost \$7 million towards upgrading Perth Oval.

The Town of Vincent will fund the remaining \$5 million of the \$11.8 million project, which is the estimated cost of upgrading the venue to a rectangular facility; with Glory likely to move their offices from Perry Lakes to the ground upon its completion.

The redevelopment, which will include a 19,500 capacity seating and standing spectator arena, is believed to have prompted Glory chairman Nick Tana to seek an agreement of playing National Soccer League games at Perth Oval for at least 15 - 20 years; although Tana has also indicated his desire to see a 30,000 capacity venue inside ten years.

While Glory will be the main occupant, rugby union and rugby league games will also be played there.

The redevelopment will begin next year in the first of a three-stage plan, over a three-

year period.

The ground was made available to soccer and rugby when long time tenant East Perth Football Club (Australian Rules) recently decided to move across town to Leederville Oval, which is in fact used by Glory for training purposes.

Despite criticism of \$11.8 million not being an adequate amount, WA Premier Geoff Gallop is confident the new



Nick Tana has labelled Perth Oval as a "boutique" venue.

venue will eventually be accepted by the soccer fraternity. Tana has labelled it as a "boutique" venue and has pledged to make it attractive to soccer supporters.

Glory played their first fixture at Perth Oval in 1996 and the advancement of soccer in the west through the Glory over the five-year period has been nothing short of remarkable, with record attendances on the increase every season.

With the emergence of Future Glory FC, the club's youth team which will be playing in the local State League, a demand has arisen for additional grounds and training facilities.

Meanwhile, Future Glory kicked off their debut season with a 0-0 draw with Perth in the Midland Brick Night Series, before a satisfied crowd of over 2,000 at Litis Stadium.

Future Glory FC fielded players such as skipper Gareth Naven, David Tarka, Brad Hassell and Michael Garcia, while Perth turned out with the likes of ex-Glory trialists Robbie Gaspar, Todd Howarth and Andreas Oliveira, plus ex-Glory defender Peter Vukmirovic. Youngsters Shaun Kilkelly and Mileta Miletic were equally impressive for the Future side.

The game however, will be remembered for the many superb saves from both goalkeepers, Vince Matassa for Future and Robbie Scarparolo.



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ing 10 days "Experience Korea" package. At \$3950 including airfares, accommodation, transfers and match tickets, it is a real opportunity to experience the World Cup ... LIVE!

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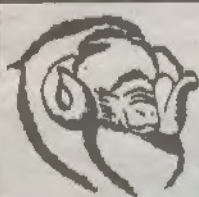
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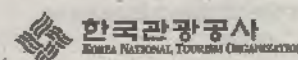


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Tim Cahill's World Cup Dream on the hold

Tim Cahill may not be able to fulfil his dream of playing for Ireland in this year's World Cup after FIFA confirmed him ineligible to represent another nation.

Eight years ago as a 14 year old, Cahill twice appeared as a substitute with Western Samoa against Vanuatu and New Zealand in qualifying matches for the Under 20 World Cup.

Despite the fact the Samoans and Soccer Australia have written to FIFA confirming they do not want him, Cahill's future remains in doubt and he is prepared to take FIFA to court to realize his dream of playing in a World Cup.

This is not the first time Cahill has been denied international showing.

After a full season with Millwall in the English



Tim Cahill: World Cup dream put on hold.

First Division, Cahill was called upon by Australia to play in their Olympic team against Tunisia.

Again he was blocked by the international federation, ruling him unable to represent another nation.

Commenting on the most recent hurdle delivered by FIFA, Cahill said; "This ruling is wrong and I want it overturned as it is harming my career. It is a mistake."

Having already enlisted the help of the PFA, Cahill's advisor Paul Martin declared; "We are keen to get this stupid ruling overturned."

I think FIFA need to make an exception in this case as he was only 14 at the time he played and yet he is now being denied the chance to take part in a World Cup.

We will go to court if necessary."

Leeds deal looking good for Kisnorbo says Krncevic

South Melbourne coach Eddie Krncevic told the Herald Sun that Patrick Kisnorbo will win a move to Leeds United.

The Australian U20 international is currently trialling at Elland Road and according to Krncevic all signs are that he will be offered a deal.

"He's (Kisnorbo) been given a couple of days to recover from the flight, he's been impressive when he trained and now they've arranged matches for him. He's a quality player but he's also very hungry for it and I'm expecting them to see that in him."

The South Melbourne coach is hopeful Leeds will allow the young star to play out the National League season before returning to the Yorkshire club in July; "He's much better off playing first team football than reserve football over there" he said.



Patrick Kisnorbo: Vying for a professional contract overseas.

Young Aussies in mind at The Dell

With a bounty of injuries to his regular strikers, Southampton's Premier league manager Gordon Strachan may be forced to call on the Australian duo of Adrian Caceras and Scott McDonald to fill the vacant striking roles.

Caceras, hailing from Perth has been in great form for Saints reserve side, while McDonald a former U17 Joey has been



Jay Lucas: Former Wollongong Wolves star hoping for a 1st Grade call up in years to come.



Scott McDonald: Could find himself starting for Southampton.

knocking in goals, in recent world Cup tournaments.

Following injuries to James Beattie, Austin Delgado, Brett Ormerod and the suspension to Kevin Davis, Strachan may now or in the future be forced to use these classy 'Aussie' youngsters.

Also at the club are two other Australians currently playing in the squads U19's side. Former Wollongong Wolves striker Jay Lucas and former Joeys defender Darren Broxton make up the Aussie contingent at the 'Dell'.

Neill's Red Card sparks Outburst

Blackburn Rovers manager, Graeme Souness could not conceal his anger on Saturday, at referee Graham Poll after claiming that the dismissal of Aussie defender Lucas Neill cost his team the game against Middlesbrough. "If that's the standard of refereeing, people won't come to football. I fear for the game," he seethed.

Souness was embroiled in a touchline row on the final whistle at the Riverside and had to be escorted back to the dressing room by the police after seeing his side dumped out of the FA Cup.

But it was Poll's decision to red-card Australia defender, Neill for a professional foul on Boro's Robbie Stockdale that turned the game after 72 minutes. Neill looked to make contact with Stockdale outside the area, but Rovers protested that he was not the last man.

"I thought the referee had a bad, bad game, and the highlight of his performance was the sending-off," Souness explained. "If you look on the television Stockdale is offside when he's played through, and when the players come together I don't think Lucas is the last man and the referee is actually waving play on."

"I used to think he Barber was half decent, one of the better ones, until today. What will that statement get me? Fined? Banned? But what happens to him? He will be back refereeing a Premier League game next week."

And though the ten men of Rovers tried to hold on, Ehiogu popped up three minutes from time to kick Blackburn out of the Cup for this year.

Furthermore, Souness could face disciplinary action for his comments after suggesting that Poll's performance could send the game spiraling into ruin.

"I fear for the game. Referees can't keep getting it wrong, it's sad for the game of football," he said. "I'm not alone [in thinking this], and unless we do something about it, we'll start to worry about why gates diminish and why people stop coming to games. People just won't come to football any more."

"The manner in which we had the player sent off will be the only thing that stays with me after this game. This will be with me all night. The frustration I feel now I cannot describe. I can't find the words to explain how I feel."



Lucas Neill: His sending-off over the weekend cost Blackburn Rovers an FA Cup quarterfinal berth.

Icy Norway awaits Power's speed star Ahmad Elrich

By Mark Stavroulakis

Yet another young rising Australian soccer star has left the shores of Australia, bound for a professional contract overseas.

Classy right wing back Ahmad Elrich departed Sydney last Wednesday for a 10-day trial in chilly Norway with First division club Lyn.

The Norwegian side is professionally run and at the moment boasts a 22-man squad. The side has had many past Norwegian legends and has always been known as a 'power-house' club in their respective league.

The 20-year-old will be travelling for the first time overseas where he will use these trials as indications on how he compares with players from Europe. "I'm pretty excited about the trip as it is my first ever overseas experience in trailing for a club.

I had the chance to trial in Holland at the start of the year, but I wanted to gain more experience at club level in Australia. Lyn are giving me the chance to show case what I have to offer, so I'll be doing my best in get-

ting any interest from the Norwegian side," said the speed star.

The Young Soccerroo managed to land this trial though a family friend who had been contacted about a side willing to trial the talented Power player. "It was a friend of my father's, who was contacted by someone over there and asked whether I could trial in Norway. I heard they were keen on me, and I was very keen on the idea and decided to take it up," said Ahmad.

Elrich's club, Parramatta Power are battling for a top six spot in the National League. Ahmad believes his side has what it takes to go further and progress to the finals of the National League. "I think we are a good chance of making the final series provided we keep consistent and play our attacking style of football.

It's all about the side not conceding goals and scoring at every opportunity, I'm sure we can to that and progress to the later stages of the National League," said the young Soccerroo.

Parramatta Power is a haven for many young future stars with the likes of former U17 Joeys Brett

Holman, Pedge Bojic and Michael Brown. Also up and coming strikers Adam Kwasnik and Luke Roodenburg and finally dynamic midfielder Matthew Thompson, the clubs future seems bright with so many young hopefuls.

Australia is renowned for developing top notch youth players, and with the help of the new FIFA rule, outlawing anyone under the age of 18 to sign for a club overseas, top talent will mature fully at home. Ahmad believes this rule is a positive one and will help boast soccer in Australia, "I think it's much better for a youngster to stay in Australia for a few years and gain National League experience before heading off overseas. The National League is a good place to play, especially for a youngster under the age of 20, as clubs will give you a go against older more experienced players. Our league will mature youngsters and will provide them with what they need before heading overseas," said the Power star.

"Zac", as he is known to his team mates will return home just in time for the home match against South Melbourne on February 23.

Depending on how Elrich goes,



Ahmad Elrich: Speedy Wing-back off for trials in Norway.

this might be the last time we all see the speedy star strut his stuff in the National League, as for next year, a

possibility of a new European career awaits for the future Soccerroo.

South selects its Team of the Century

By Bert van Bedaf

South Melbourne will become the first NSL club to announce a Team of the Century after months of soul-searching, consultation and research. The historic event has been billed as one of the highlights in the club's 43-year existence.

A long list of past and present heroes has been culled to a shortlist that reads like a who-is-who of Australian soccer.

A former Soccerroo, Crino, who briefly coached Melbourne City in the State competition but now is not involved in soccer, was obviously proud to be included in South's hall of fame.

"This is a great opportunity for the club, the supporters

The shortlisted 40 players in contention for the Team of the Century are as follows:

Marko Fode 1971-1974
Bruce MacLaren 1985-1992
Peter Laumets 1979-1985
Michael Patkovic 1996
Ange Postecoglou 1984-1993
Fausto DeAmicis 1996
Takis Mantarakis 1961-1972
Alan Davidson 1979-1996
Mike Pye 1975-1979
Bobby Russell 1983-1988
B. Kambouropoulos 1962-1972
John Margaritis 1961-1967
Kenny Murphy 1983-1987
Ted Smith 1960-1964
Mike Petersen 1969-1997
Oscar Crino 1963-1985
Paul Wade 1987-1995
Jordan Jeremiadis 1960-1964

Michael Mandalis 1962-1972
Peter Bourne 1972-1978
Steve Panopoulos 1993
Billy Rogers 1977-1982
G. Papadopoulos 1960-1966
Mehmet Durakovic 1989
Arthur Xanthopoulos 1974-1982
John Yzendorf 1983-1985
Steve Blair 1980-1993
John Bedford 1960-1974
Andreas Roussis 1964-1970
Steve Walker 1970-1976
Ernie Ackley 1964-1971
Jim Armstrong 1970-1978
Doug Brown 1983-1986
Duncan Cummings 1976-1981
Charlie Egan 1982-1987
Alun Evans 1978-1981
Antonis 1960-1964
Antonis Karagiannis 1960-1961
Jim Pyrgolios 1963-1972
Paul Trimboli 1988

and the players. It's an opportunity for the players to thank the club, because many people have put in a lot of effort and to be remembered like this is a great thing," Crino said.

Legends such as Charlie Egan, Oscar Crino and John Margaritis are competing with current stars Steve Panopoulos, captain Paul Trimboli and Fausto De Amicis for a spot in the final, 16-player squad and coach.

Renowned Sydney artist Dave Thomas, whose works include sporting portraits for the Australian Cricket Board as well as the Melbourne Storm Rugby League club,

has been commissioned to paint a portrait of the final team, which will be available in limited edition prints, signed by the final squad.

The night of the announcement will include a variety of entertainment and rare, unseen footage of South Melbourne's club history.

The team of the Century will be announced on Friday, February 22 during a dinner at the Palladium Ballroom, Crown Entertainment Complex, starting at 7:00PM. For bookings please contact the Club on (03) 9645 9797.



Oscar Crino: Former Souths player proud to be included.



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National Soccer League

South Melbourne Northern Spirit

2
1

By Bert van Bedaf

The South Melbourne magic is slowly and surely returning. The tandem of Con Boutsianis and captain Paul Trimboli hit the fast lane in style at Bob Jane stadium last Friday night, together with Vaughan Coveny and a string of youngsters like Ray Sekulovski, Massimo Murocca and Vince Lin.

The dazzling duo carved up the Northern Spirit defence to lift South into finals contention with a 2-1 victory that incredibly could have gone either way with ten minutes left on the clock. But Trimboli, in the starting eleven for the first time after a long absence because of injury led the way, while substitute Peter Buljan sealed victory with only his second goal for South.

"Any performance is good when you get a result, but we're playing good football at the moment. This was our fifth game in a row without a loss," South

coach Eddie Krncevic said.

"Last week (3-2 win away to Melbourne Knights) was also an excellent performance and it was important we'd win today to build on it, otherwise it would have gone down the toilet," he said.

If anything, the Spirit might be fearing their season is sinking.

Coach Mick Hickman shunned the post-conference and his assistant Jean-Paul de Marigny turned up.

"Of course, we're disappointed. We clawed our way back into the game when we got a penalty. But South Melbourne played some good football and they always had control of the game. They have a settled side with experienced campaigners," De Marigny said.

De Marigny was sure the Spirit would be in the finals in May. "Our target is to get in the top six and that's still the same," he said.

It could have been curtains for the Spirit inside five minutes, the way South jumped out of the blocks. But first

Trimboli and minutes later Coveny saw their attempts thwarted.

Trimboli lobbed Spirit 'keeper Paul Henderson from close range, but watched the ball fly over the bar, while Coveny had his daisy-cutter pushed for a corner.

Coveny tested Henderson a second time after 17 minutes and although the Spirit guardsman initially fumbled, he took the ball at the second grab.

Boutsianis began finding range with his trademark free kicks, one of them Trimboli headed over the bar after 40 minutes.

Just on half time Boutsianis put Coveny through, but the South striker knocked the ball over the bar from an angle as Henderson narrowed the target.

Although the first half belonged to South and the home side should have been at least a goal up, the Lakesiders failed to find the net. The besieged Spirit would have been pleased to go into the interval with a clean sheet.

But it didn't last long. Another Boutsianis' free-kick from just outside the box again reached Trimboli and this time the veteran skipper didn't miss, pushing his header emphatically under the bar and into the net to give South the lead.

Yet, the Spirit came back nine minutes later, opening up the South defence. Robert Liparoti brought down Adrian Cervinski inside the area.

Referee Peter Green unhesitatingly pointed to the spot. Pablo Cardozo stepped up and coolly levelled for the visitors.

Trimboli almost got South ahead again in the 64th minute, but his initial shot was blocked by Julian Watts, while his rebound hit the post.

The sustained pressure on the Spirit goal increased, but the Northern defence kept its cool, denying Coveny in the 66th minute from a Boutsianis cross.

Robbie Trajkovski, who had barely been sighted, unleashed a powerful shot in the 80th minute that could have stolen the game for the Spirit.

But South didn't let up and continued to pepper the Spirit goal. Coveny fired in a cross that Boutsianis headed into the box and quick-as-a-flash Buljan headed it home to give South a deserved and hard-fought victory.



Paul Trimboli: The South Melbourne skipper was instrumental in the sides well deserved win.

Football Kingz Sydney United

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Sydney United bounced back from last week's disappointing home loss to register a three-nil win against cross-Tasman rivals the Football Kingz at Ericsson Stadium.

United, beaten by the Kingz earlier in the season, went across to Auckland seeking to vindicate the result and a two goal second half, all but wrapped up the three points for the visiting Bravehearts, who

were to once again expose the frailties of a home defence, that had kept defending champions the Wollongong Wolves to a draw the previous week.

The Sydney team opened the scoring in the 22nd minute through Commins Menapi. A corner from the right side was played into the Kingz penalty area, and following some sloppy attempts by the home team to clear the ball, it was left to Menapi to nod home from close

range.

The Kingz had their best chance of the match some ten minutes later after 32 minutes when Chris Jackson swung in a cross from the left, which Harry Ngata headed on, but Paul Urlovic could not provide the finish when presented with the open goal.

On the hour mark United were two goals up when Gabriel Mendez beat three defenders before slipping the pass to Nahuel Arrarte. Arrarte delivered the cross to Ante Duer who was on hand to score with a first time volley.

Vilson Knezevic in the Sydney United goal was scarcely troubled in the United goal and a neat counter-attacking move enabled United to complete the scoring on 89 minutes. After Christian Cevinini had played a ball into the path of Mendez it was left to the dynamic midfielder to run on a score, thus completing a convincing win for the visitors.

That three-nil loss leaves the Kingz parked at the bottom of the National League table, while the three points moves United away from the bottom two and the confidence to return to Endorsor Park to face the mid-table Wollongong Wolves.



Gabriel Mendez: The nippy midfielder sealed the match for United with a neatly taken goal just before full-time.

Marconi Stallions Melbourne Knights

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By Joe Russo

In front of a disappointing home crowd of just over 2,000 spectators at Marconi Stadium due to Sydney's suddenly inclement weather, Marconi Stallions found themselves paying for not converting their chances and letting the lead slip away just before half-time. Melbourne Knights were the better team overall and the final score line was a good reflection of their supremacy.

It was perhaps a game that may prove a turning point should the Stallions not make the Top Six. However, the Knights can be proud of their display and thoroughly deserved their win away from home.

Knights player/coach Andrew Marth relished playing a deeper role and consequently the Knights' defence was more reliable. Furthermore, Marth would have been very pleased with his team's effort, especially after trailing 1-0 after only 13 minutes.

The same cannot be said for Marconi coach Lee Sterrey and it will be back to the drawing board for him and his team this week. Initially Marconi seemed to be in control and only heroics from Knights keeper Martin John denied both Norman Tome (header) and Bozinovski (close range shot) in the space of a minute in the 33rd minute.

A goal would have meant a 2-0 lead for the Stallions.

Marconi's failure to capitalise on their chances, their error rate and average defending at times, were all factors in their loss. None of these factors will have gone unnoticed by

their astute coach Sterrey who now finds his side well outside the Top Six.

Marconi opened procedures in the 13th minute when a long ball forward by Tome found John Maisano in space and he coolly chipped over the advancing keeper.

After Marconi failed to capitalise

put the visitors ahead for the first time in the game.

In the second half the Knights were clearly the better team and often were able to penetrate an average Marconi defence with long balls.

Inspired by their come-from-behind heroics late in the first half, they played with extra purpose and determination in the second half. Rarely did the Stallions ever really look like equalising in the second half.

Not even the introduction of young whiz kid, Alex Brosque in the second half could turn things around for Marconi.



Knights star striker Joel Porter scored his 10th goal of the season

on chances it was Joel Porter, who received a lovely ball from Ivo De Jesus, that equalised in the 39th minute for the Knights after finding a fairly open goal in which to score.

It was in the 43rd minute that Toto Da Costa with a nice header

It was De Jesus that scored the third goal for the Knights in the 90th minute after a nice move on the left and it gave the score line that rounder look that more accurately reflected the differences between the sides on a wet Sydney evening.

National Soccer League

Olympic Sharks Newcastle United

By Pano Tagaroulas

On a humid overcast evening 6256 braved the up and down weather for what promised to be an entertaining match. Second placed Newcastle United was visiting fourth placed Sydney Olympic Sharks.

The playing surface looked a far cry from the "beach" players had to contend with early in the season. The Sharks were looking to redeem themselves in front of their home supporters after the 0-1 away loss last week to Parramatta.

The Sharks welcomed back Lindsay Wilson from his European adventure while bidding a farewell to the talents of Nick Carle. The United squad remained unchanged for this encounter.

Peter Tsekenis was playing against the club that discarded his services two seasons ago while several players on both sides were playing against former team mates.

A challenge from behind by Andrew Durante on Joel Griffiths led to a 10th minute yellow card for the defender. The resulting set piece by Milan Blagojevic ended in the first strike on target by a Joel Griffiths headed flick.

In the 15th minute a deep pass by Peter Tsekenis found a rampaging Joel Griffiths with some work to do. His first touch allowing Clint Bolton the opportunity to snuff out the opportunity.

In the 16th minute Beltrame, sporting a

crop of recently painted red hair, dropped what seemed an easy catch at Lindsay Wilson. The bounce favoured the keeper, saving some Newcastle blushes.

In the 23rd minute an attempted curling chip by Halpin, was cut out by Beltrame.

A minute later Scott Baillie nearly put his old team in the lead with a misdirected header resulting in a corner for the Sharks.

A 29th minute aborted pass by Ante Juric, ended at the feet of Esala Masi, who took the ball at pace and shot wide of the target.

In the 29th referee Mark Shield produced a yellow card for an innocuous challenge by Matt Bingley on Paul Kohler.

At the other end a Troy Halpin pass to Ante Milicic led to a well-struck shot on target that was parried by Daniel Beltrame for a corner.

In the 31st minute a cross by Lindsay Wilson was miss judged by a back peddling Beltrame. However a lack of anticipation by the Olympic strike force ensured the cross came to no result.

Another Troy Halpin ball to Lindsay Wilson led to a curling cross that eluded Ante Milicic. The ball found Tom Pondiljak beyond the far post, the angle defeating the possibility of a goal.

In the 35th minute a blunder by Clint Bolton resulted in a penalty. A running Robbie Middleby had touched the ball beyond Bolton and the confines of the

playing area. The Sharks keeper followed through with the unnecessary challenge. Joel Griffiths made no mistake with the spot kick making it 1-0 for the visitors.

In the 38th minute a yellow card was shown to Joel Griffiths for a foul on Ante Juric.

The card fest continued with a 41st minute yellow card to Paul Kohler for pulling back Joel Griffiths.

In the 45th minute the same foul by Paul Kohler on Joel Griffiths resulted in a stern talking to.

In the 46th minute a one on one, Middleby on Bolton, resulted in a save by a well spread Sharks keeper.

Chances fell to both sides early in the second stanza prompting the crowd to begin voicing their opinions on the ability

of some of the players and the performance of the match officials on show.

In the 53rd minute a curling, driving free kick by Troy Halpin, heading for a the top left-hand corner, was punched wide by Daniel Beltrame.

In the 56th minute, Mark Shield ensured he would remain the talking point of what otherwise was unfolding into the type of game the N.S.L. sadly needs.

Joel Griffiths was shown another yellow card for apparently pulling on Steve Laybutt's shirt. When viewed in context of previous fouls and the retaliatory elbow by Steve Laybutt on Joel Griffiths that resulted in a yellow for the defender, the decision seemed inconsistent to say the least.

In the 61st minute, Gary Phillips replaced Paul Kohler for Dylan Macallister, in a move clearly designed to get bodies in the box to finish off some excellent service from Lindsay Wilson and Troy Halpin.

Chances fell to Wilson and Laybutt in the 63rd and 64th minutes prompting Ian Crook to add some fresh legs into fray. Esala Masi made way for Daniel McBreen.

Some typical Milan Blagojevic class, in the form of a dummy in the 67th minute, gave Joseph Schirripa an angled shot inside the Sharks area that was deflected wide.

This was followed by some Peter Tsekenis magic on edge of box that turned the Olympic defence. Daniel McBreen first touch did not do the delivery credit.

Steve Laybutt made way for Wayne Srhoj in the 71st minute.

The following passage of play saw some desperate defending with Wayne Baillie defending a Lindsay Wilson cross

and Andy Roberts heading clear a curling Troy Halpin delivery.

In the 78th minute a tiring Ante Milicic was replaced for Hiroyuki Ishida.

Man of the match Lindsay Wilson popped up in the six-yard box on the end of a Jade North cross. The header was miss-directed wide of the far upright.

Lindsay Wilson next involvement was to deliver yet another cross that seemed to surprise Hiroyuki Ishida, who missed making contact with the ball.

Some desperation by Andrew Roberts in the 85th minute blocked a Dylan Macallister shot that would have been difficult to stop from 9 meters.

A foul by Ante Juric in the 87th minute that seemed deliberate did not end in the Olympic defender seeing yellow.

The equalizer was delivered, not surprisingly, by a Lindsay Wilson delivery in the 89th minute. Jade North finished in style sending the home fans braving the rain into raptures.

Mark Shield, not to be outdone by the quality of the spectacle, booked an unlucky Andrew Durante for a second foul that seemed to be the result of the conditions rather than intent. Both coaches would not comment on the performance of the match officials however several players were surprised that such a good-natured affair should result in so many bookings.

The game ended shortly after the substitution of Joseph Schirripa for Travis Dodd.

An entertaining top of the table clash produced some quality soccer. Credit must go to playing and coaching staff of both sides, for not allowing a sub par and inconsistent performance by the referee, to relegate the game into a kick fest.



Jade North and Peter Tsekenis battling for the ball.

Brisbane Strikers Parramatta Power

By Glenn Davis

The flickering embers of Brisbane Strikers, grand final triumph last decade showed signs of flaring after a 4-1 rout over Parramatta Power at Ballymore last Saturday night.

The Strikers smashed one of their worst ever home droughts on the back of a hat-trick from striker Paul Foster and superb individual performances from Brazilian Fernando Rech and teenager Matt McKay.

McKay, making his home start-



Paul Foster: Grabbed a hat-trick that moved him up to 12 goals.

ing debut, showed he had a tremendous national league future with his silky skills and clever passing while Rech was given a huge tick after the game from coach John Kosmina.

Rech's bravery came to the fore when forced from the field for ten minutes in the first half to receive seven stitches to a badly gashed mouth, which resulted from a clash with former Socceroo veteran Alex Tobin.

"Fernando showed tonight just what a great player he is", Kosmina said.

"He even apologized to me for being so long in the medical room while he got stitched up.

He's just so hungry and if he stays in Australia long enough to get his citizenship he should be chosen in the national side."

The Strikers, victory was their first at home since downing Marconi 2-0 on December 22 and put them on track to peg back second placed Newcastle United for the vital second position on the table.

Brisbane opened the scoring in the 10th minute after a blunder from Power keeper Leslie Pogliacomi whose poor attempt to kick long was miss-hit, falling straight into Rech's path.

Rech pounced on the mistake and smashed a 30-metre shot on target, which Pogliacomi could only parry into the path of Foster for the first of his hat-trick with an easy tap-in.

Power was shell-shocked by the keeper's error and almost paid dearly on several more occasions before the interval.

It was a match Pogliacomi and coach David Mitchell quickly wanted to forget.

"The first goal killed us", Mitchell said later.

"I've told him (Pogliacomi) 100 times not to kick the ball the way he does."

The Strikers made it 2-nil soon after the resumption when Rech blasted a 25-metre free kick into the top corner giving Pogliacomi no chance.

The free kick was awarded by Sydney referee Craig Zetter after McKay was pulled back in a professional foul by Power defender David Barrett that earned him a booking.

Rech had several scoring opportunities but few were better after he was out through a huge gap by McKay into the box before snapping a shot wide in front of an open goal.

Although the Strikers were clearly on top, Power staged a mini comeback when striker John Buonavoglia tapped in from close range to reduce the Strikers' lead to 2-1 six minutes from time.

However, any fight back was short lived as Foster banged in two goals within two minutes to stretch Brisbane's lead to 4-1.

Foster's second of the match came in the 87th minute after McKay capitalised on a Power error and blasted from 40 metres onto the upright for Foster to tuck home the rebound.

Foster's hat-trick came one minute from normal time when a shot took a wicked deflection off a defender over Pogliacomi's head.

Wollongong Wolves Adelaide Force

By Otto Bader

The tide is gone, forget about play-offs according to Wolves coach Ron Corry.

The coach was disappointed with the performance of some of his senior players after a good first half where the Wolves missed an number of chances to win the match.

However towards the final minute of the first half, very poor marking allowed Adelaide to equalise the earlier strike from Stuart Young, scoring for the home team in the sixth minute.

Looking at the game, played in front of a small crowd of 2,508 Adelaide were cautious in the first half and allowed the Wolves to dominate in the early stages and several free kicks in the first five minutes illustrated the ferocity of the contest.

The home side opened the score with striker Stuart Young finding the net after neat play in the sixth minute.

The fans were hoping the Wolves would go on with the job, the stadium was buzzing with expectation. To their credit the Adelaide boys kept their cool, even under extreme pressure and did what they could to balance the match.

The home side created good forward

moves but poor ball distribution saw possession lost much too often, while wild shots flew thick and fast.

In the 45th minute a free kick for Adelaide Force awarded about 40 metres out resulted in the equaliser when Scott Tunbridge had a free header on the left side. He was left unmarked to beat the Wolves keeper with a well placed ball into the far corner.

The home team was guilty of several glaring misses which proved in the end crucial and frustration set in with the Wolves struggling in the second half.



Scott Tunbridge: Adelaide Force striker scored the side's only goal.

Despite working hard, the ball was not running well for the home team; poor distribution losing possession more often than necessary and only desperate defending and great goal keeping by the Wolves custodian prevented the Force running with the game.

It looked like the Wolves lost composure and style, nothing went right and while playing strong in the first part, the second part was very poor.

Ron Corry made several changes using all three substitutions; taking off Naum Sekulovski, Dino Mennillo and Con Anthopoulos, bringing on Greg Sharland, Buddy Farah and Sean Babic, to inflict new spirit into a fading Wolves team.

Wolves' keeper Dean Anastasiadis kept his team in the game saving three one-on-one situations. The Wolves did not create anything worthwhile in the later moments of the match.

The draw did not help both sides, the Wolves now on 19 points while Adelaide on 16 for both the season is over and a new beginning seems evident.

It would be interesting to observe if the Wolves coaching staff blood some youngsters into the first grade side. According to Ron Corry there are three or four Youth Graders who could make the step up and the opportunity for building a better future is now.

Championships are built on defence – Spirit's Lou Acevski



Lou Acevski

Goalkeeping is the least glamorous position on the soccer pitch. In Australia's premier soccer competition, the difference between glory and failure may hinge largely on a keeper's agility and anticipation to reach the ball a split-second before his opponent can slot the ball into the back of the net.

With talent to burn, Northern Spirit's goalkeeper, Lou Acevski is among the young brigade of emerging talents in this country. If truth be said that 'championships are built on defence', then make no mistake this rising star's pursuit of greatness is set to hit like a freight train.

Ahead of last Friday night's clash between the Spirit and South Melbourne, Lou and his fiancée Katerina spoke to ABSW about hiring a gondola in Melbourne, Andrew McDermott's four n' twenty meat pies, and John Hutchinson's 'Van Dam' moves!!

DR: How would you describe yourself as a player?

LA: Loud, focused, confident, and determined.

DR: From what age have you been playing this great game?

LA: I played for Green Gully juniors at the age of eight, before moving on to Sunshine Park juniors, and then St Albans juniors for three years. At the age of sixteen I played in the St Albans senior side, and then played for Preston Lions at the age of eighteen. My break came at the Knights at the age of twenty one.

DR: What League do you rate as the world's best?

LA: The Italian League for tactical reasons and its quality. It's probably the hardest league to play in.

DR: If you could play for any team in the world, which one would it be?

LA: Bayern Munich, because I love German soccer.

DR: No matter how exciting the saves, how acrobatic the goalkeeper, if you make a mistake the crowd is immediately your enemy. How true is this?

LA: Very true. The focus is immediately directed towards you. When you make a mistake in soccer, you have to put it behind you.

DR: What makes soccer such a popular sport around the world?

LA: The skill level of players around the world. Players like Zidane, Rivaldo, etc.



John Hutchinson: Known for his 'Van Damme' moves on podiums at various nightclubs.

DR: Is there a soccer player that you model your game on?

LA: No. I take advice from all coaches past and present, and stick to my own methods.

DR: Who would you trade places with for a day?

LA: You have your ups and downs, but I wouldn't trade my life with anyone.

DR: Will Northern Spirit be Championship contenders this season?

LA: With the calibre of players we have, we should make the top six and then work hard to win the Championship.

DR: What are the qualities of a good coach?

LA: Man-handling, communication, highly determined, and a touch of arrogance.

DR: In one word describe Mick Hickman.

LA: The man? Gentleman. The coach? Determined.

DR: Who is the funniest character in the game today?

LA: Jean-Paul DeMarigny, my assistant coach — he's always buzzing.

DR: Who is the last person you would like to be stuck in an elevator with?

LA: My coach after we've been hammered.

DR: If you could travel back in time, where would you go?

LA: Back to when I went to Germany for trials. This time I would reside there, and be persistent.

DR: If you could choose any actor to play you in a movie, who would it be?

LA: George Clooney.

DR: You were born and raised in Melbourne, but you have made the move across to the Harbour City. Where do you call home?

LA: Back in Melbourne, but anywhere soccer takes you.

DR: Do you still follow the AFL?

LA: Yes. I'm a member of the Essendon Football club.

DR: What is your favorite late-night snack?

LA: Chocolate mud cake.

DR: Which teammate could do with a new wardrobe?

LA: Simon Bell. He wears braces to hold up his pants, and crocodile skin slippers.

DR: Which teammate do you refuse to share a room with?

LA: Simon Bell, because he can't understand my humour.

DR: Best hangover cure?

LA: What's that? I've never been drunk.

DR: Which member of your squad is most likely to be caught dancing on a podium at a nightclub?

LA: John Hutchinson, because of his 'Van Damme' moves.

DR: Which member of your squad would top Cleo's most eligible bachelor list?

LA: Adam Griffiths, because he's popular with the women.

DR: If you could have any supernatural power, what would it be?

LA: To be the best that I can be.

DR: What gourmet cuisines can you whip up in the kitchen?

LA: I'm handy when I'm in the mood — chicken stir-fry, Italian food, pasta, BBQ's.

DR: Which famous person have you been told you look like?

LA: Christian Vieri.

DR: If you were invisible what's the first place you would sneak into?



By Daniela Raco

LA: A bank safe — easy access to money.

DR: Who or what inspires you?

LA: My father, mother, and fiancée all motivate me, keep my confidence up, and help me stay positive.

DR: What is the best (or perhaps worst) excuse you've heard someone use for missing training?

LA: Andrew McDermott. Before a Sunday morning training session he called to say he had a bad meat pie at the cricket the previous day.

DR: Complete this sentence 'Love is...'

LA: What you make of it.

DR: Which 'high roller' teammate is a regular enthusiast on the 'blackjack'?

LA: Scott Thomas doesn't mind a punt.

DR: Are you the first or last to leave the change rooms after a game?

LA: I'm not the first or the last.

DR: What animal (or thing) best describes your personality?

LA: A scorpion — I'm quiet, but I bite people who disrespect me.

DR: Do you have any bad habits?

LA: I'm obsessive when it comes to cleaning.

DR: Describe your idea of a romantic night out?

LA: Sailing in a gondola along the Yarra River (Melbourne).

DR: What is the biggest misconception about sportsmen?

LA: They're loaded and arrogant.

DR: What is the first thing you do when you arrive home?

LA: I ask my fiancée 'what's for dinner'?

DR: Do you have a favourite meal?

LA: Macedonian sausages.

DR: How would you spend your last \$50?

LA: A train ticket to go back home, and a foot-long Subway roll.

We live, breathe, and eat soccer. Goalkeepers are like the lone ranger. Every player has pressure to perform, but as a goalkeeper the result falls on your shoulders.

DR: Is he the first or last to leave the change rooms after a game?

KA: The first. His mind is still non-stop focused on the game. He is critical on himself and how he can improve his game.

DR: Does Lou have any hidden talents (that you can share with us)?

KA: He is great at BBQ's. Ask Paul Henderson — he played host to a BBQ last weekend, but has no BBQ skills! Lou took control.

DR: Are you the typical 'glamour' partner of a soccer player?

KA: No, not really. I wear what I feel comfortable in. Plus with all that yelling and screaming, I don't think it's appropriate in 'Versace'!

DR: Describe Lou's dress sense. Is he the glamour queen?

KA: Definitely not! It's always 'honey where are my clothes?' and 'what should I wear?'

DR: What is Lou's favourite conversation topic?

KA: Soccer, food, soccer, food!

DR: Does he have any bad habits?

KA: Wakes up, takes his pyjamas off, steps out and walks away. He's a hypocrite, because he likes his cleanliness.

DR: Who controls the remote control?

KA: I do. He is home all day, so I control the prime-time slot.

DR: Is there a downside of being a 'football' widow?

KA: It's hard, but has its rewards.

DR: How do you react when fans yell abuse at your main man?

KA: Ask the people who were sitting two rows behind a couple of weeks back. They had to pay a visit to the Ear and Ear Hospital!

DR: Have you got a mean right hook?

KA: I'm all talk, no action.

DR: Are you Lou's harshest critic?

KA: No, I'm just a harsh critic of the game. Of all the girls I sit with, I'm the most vocal and not very lady-like on a Friday night for the duration of the 90 minutes. In regards to Lou, it depends on how the game went. We usually discuss it the following day.

DR: Can you tell us Lou's location and activities right at this moment?

KA: He is in front of the computer playing 'Premiership Manager'.

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Lou shown with his lovely fiancée Katerina.

Trent McClenahan: A Day In The Life Of An Aussie Hammer

By Mark Stavroulakis

Young gun Trent McClenahan is living a life-long dream, playing professionally overseas for an English Premier League club.

The just turned 17-year-old has been apart of the West Ham set-up for well over six months now, and has a further two and half years to hone his skills in making it to the top.

Young Trent signed for the Hammers in late July last year from National League side Parramatta Power on a 3-year scholarship, this enabled him to finish school. Since his time at West Ham, he's been apart of the U17 youth side alongside many other potential first graders. "Once I made the move to West Ham, I knew full well that the next three years were very crucial. You only get one crack at international level and at this stage I'm doing all I can to get that reward in two years time, a first grade contract," said the 'West End Kid'.

The former Parramatta Power youth player has adjusted well in chilly England, but admitted it was quite tough at first settling into his new surroundings. "At first it was tough as it was weird not having my parents around all the time. After a month I found my feet, met a lot of new faces and adapted well into the English lifestyle. So far my footballing career has been great, I've had no complaints. I've noticed in England the game is much faster and more physical then back at home. I've played the majority of the games with the U17's and feel as though



Catching up on Australian news, shown here reading the ABSW.

I've improved as the matches went on. What took a bit of time was my positional change from my old role as sweeper to right back. Improvement is a must and I know I have more to learn, but luckily with the current climate I'm in, anything is possible.

The next step for me once I return to England is establishing myself in the U19's squad. Soon after that the reserve side is my next goal, then hopefully first grade," said the former NSW star.

Young McClenahan is experiencing English culture at it's best, and currently resides at the (Diggs) situated in Romford. The site is used as accommodation for all the youth players who live too far from the club. 'Diggs' is basically the term given to the lodge we stay at. It accommodates 20 youth players and has everything we need. The good

thing about being situated there is its only five minutes from our training grounds and it's very close to town. People know that West Hammers are renowned for being the working class society, for me it's a great environment to be in and also a bonus for myself to experience such a thing," said the West Ham star.

Occasionally, young Trent gets the opportunity to rub shoulders with West Ham's best as the first grade do their bit in teaching the youngsters the trade. "It's kind of like a movie having all the stars so close to you. At first it was intimidating, but I got used to it and now have developed a friendship with the players. Paolo Di Canio is probably the most well known player at the club. He is very flamboyant and is always doing his own thing. He's an exceptional player and has tremendous skills, a player that always gets the crowds going at

Upton Park. Then you've got fellow 'Aussie' Hayden

Foxe. His more relaxed and likes to kick back and is happy with what his got. His helped me quite a bit since my move from Sydney, always giving me great advice on how to better myself as a footballer. Lastly, it's safe to say that John Moncur would be the joker of the side. His one of the oldest players in the club but is always up for a laugh. Overall, the lads are a very tight knit unit and come game day, always give 100%," said Trent.

Apart from young Trent, there are three other fellow Australians currently at the Hammers. Each Aussie player is staking their claims for a first team spot where Trent believes is always possible. "Michael Ferrante is currently on loan to Bristol Rovers. His still young but is pushing hard for a first team start.

Hayden Foxe, one of the main players in the Hammers squad, no doubt one of the best guys off the pitch. Lastly, Ritchie Garcia, a youngster who at the moment is getting his first team chance and is doing really well, keep an eye on him," said the West Ham star.

Homesickness is always a key symptom that Australian based players overseas seem to contract. At this stage, Trent has been away for six months, and in some instances, has felt that tingle of missing his old home. "There's no doubt you will always miss something you were so used to.

There are times where I wish my parents were here with me but I guess it makes me a tougher person. I'm always thankful to them though, they do their bits in never forgetting home by sending me copies of the ABSW, and always keeping me updated with what's happening in Australia. I also keep in touch with my old school mates via the Internet, but you can't beat the real thing," said the promising youngster.

Trent zipped into the country for a few weeks, spending time with family and friends and departed Sydney last Monday bound for England again. "It was great seeing all my relatives and mates who I've missed so much. Being at home really recharged my batteries ahead of an even tougher season," said McClenahan.

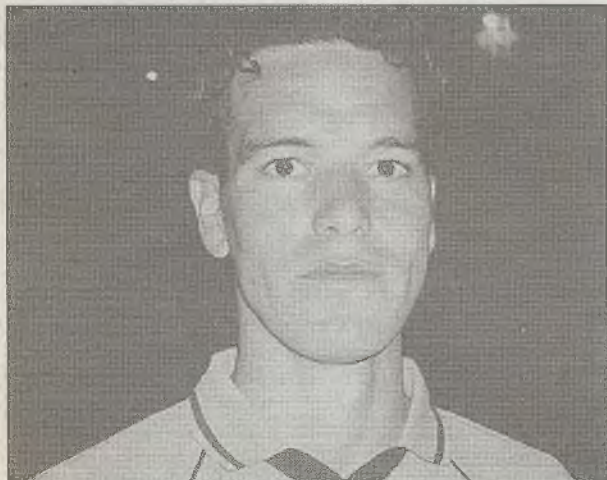
In time, the future sits firmly in the youngsters hands, with more promise and constant improvement; we might yet see another huge Australian star in the making.

Pogliacomi to link up with Muscat at Wolves

Parramatta Power custodian Les Pogliacomi is on his way to Kevin Muscat's Wolverhampton Wanderers, despite his self-confessed dodgy display against the Brisbane strikers.

The keeper was at fault for two of the Strikers' goals in a resurgent display dominated by a hat-trick from Paul Foster.

He is the second Power player to have left for overseas trials following Ahmad Elrich's trial in Norway.



Les Pogliacomi: Off to England for trials.

Scottish summer move denied by Muscat

Socceroos and Wolverhampton Wanderers defender Kevin Muscat has denied reports that he has signed a pre-contract agreement with Glasgow Rangers, that would see him move north in the summer.

One of the hard men of the English game, Muscat declared the speculation was incorrect, urging that he is determined to bring the Wolves into the English Premiership: "I have not signed any pre-contract, contrary to weekend speculation that I have", said Muscat



Kevin Muscat has denied any move to Ibrox.

Aussie duo feature in FA Cup ties

Lee Howells and Steve Corica were the unlucky losers as Cheltenham Town and Walsall were bundled in the FA Cup 5th round.

Howells' Cheltenham lost 1-nil at West Brom, while Walsall signing Corica saw his new team lose 2-1 at home to Fulham.

Howells played a full 90 minutes as a defensive midfielder, while Corica made his debut, coming on in the 76th minute.



Steve Corica: Made his debut for Walsall in the 76th minute.

Letters to the Editor

Kewell not the jewel in Italy

Dear Sir,

The idea of seeing Harry Kewell moving to Italy is a disaster. The style of play is not the same, plus the language barrier will be hard to override.

Older readers may remember other great players going to Italy and apart from one, they all failed.

Jimmy Greaves, one of the greatest goal poachers in British football, Dennis Law one of Scotland's greatest players, Ian Rush one of the legends to put on a Liverpool



Harry Kewell: Move to Italy is on the cards.

Soccer Australia's Levy - a Joke

Dear Sir,

The Gladesville Hornsby Associations boycott of SA registration fee rise is interesting.

The (GHA) is one of Sydney's oldest Junior Associations, with the area always fielding a large number of mostly undistinguished recreational soccer players. For many years, Graham McKinnon, a player with the old Apia club many years ago was the only quality player to graduate from the large GHA a woeful success rate.

For more than 55 years there have been numerous serious attempts to harness the soccer potential of this area of Sydney to no avail. It started with the John Thompson controlled Gladesville Soccer

WAKE UP SOCCER AUSTRALIA

Dear Sir,

I am surprised that our only worthwhile soccer publication has not taken a stand on the matter of the levy dished out by Soccer Australia on the backbone of the World Game in Australia, the 300,000 kids and the amateurs.

Without these two groups, supported by an army of volunteers and coaches, week in and week out, football would not exist. Soccer Australia would not exist.

The levy was proposed by Soccer Australia to a gathering of stakeholders, all of whom had a vested interest in the propping up and continuation of a bankrupt ego-trip venue for regular gatherings, at players' expense.

Some of the stakeholders making the decision are in trouble as deep as Soccer Australia, so they could not "kick the tin" with a little cash. Or did they consider it imprudent to throw good money after bad?

Some of the States, including the rather puzzling "State" of Northern NSW, based in Newcastle, have rumoured total reserve funds of between \$15m and \$20m.

Did they put their hands up and offer to lend the national controlling body the money needed to placate the creditors?

They did not. They closed ranks, locked up their cheque books and decided to hit those whose voices are so far down the line that the cries of pain would be barely audible in their high rise city office.

It takes a hell of a loud shout for the soccer communities out in dis-

tant country areas to be heard. They cannot communicate directly with Soccer Australia to voice their objections. They have to depend on the antiquated "States" system to pass their gripes on, but are the States willing to rock the boat and demand a few basic facts and some explanations. Maybe they do not want to risk their seats on the board.

Perhaps Soccer Australia should release the report of the recent independent enquiry into the SA administration. Soccer Australia backed down on its promise to release the report on what went wrong.

Now, with little explanation and no requests for input from the grass roots level, SA demands that the States collect \$6.50 from junior players up to 18 years (up 44.30 on the previous contribution the kids made to SA first class air travel and five star accommodation); \$12 for senior non-contract men and women (an increase of \$9.80); and a whopping \$35 for senior contract players, an increase of \$24.

The first hint of the levy came through the old political ploy of releasing the hare (the rumour) in the lead-up to Christmas and see which way it runs. As most people were more interested in the holidays, and in the absence of official advice, the grass roots administrators could do little other than set their budgets and charges for the 2002 season.

They spent time and money on printing the various forms with details of fees required for sign-on days. Then came the official communication in the first week of January. A certain amount would be levied, hardly had the Associations recovered from the

the game apart from adding a level of administration an associated expenses to be covered by the kids who only want to a ball around at the weekend.

Soccer administration should be regionalised on the basis of community of interest, ignoring State boundaries set over years ago.

The regional bodies would be responsible to the Australian controlling body, which would care of international affairs.

The politics, intrigue and making which has held the game back and frightened off the sponsors in the corporate world will have to go if the game is to reach its potential in Australia.

Ian Knop's somewhat embarrassed cheesy smile when asked media that everything is fine under control at SA does little help the hundreds of little which have to fund the levy out even knowing if it is a charge or if the title, The National Registration means it will be an on-Golden Egg laid by every playing soccer across Australia.

I wonder if the "modified" is an effort to recover lost in as a result of the administrative stuff-up reported last week in SBS in which SA advised Italians in December that the posed Australian tour was When they wanted to reverse decision, the Italian said they going to Uruguay. Mr Knop, ing's changed.

George G
Wollon
North Coast



Ian Knop: Soccer Australia chairman under fire over levy's.

THANK YOU ABSW

Dear Sir,

The Leichhardt Tigers Soccer Club would like to thank all at the Australian & British Soccer Weekly for your magnificent and greatly appreciated coverage of the world wide, prestigious Viareggio 2002 Coppa Carnevale.

The articles were informative, colourful and truly depicted the club's spirit and pride in its inaugural participation - an event that the club will participate in with honour on an annual basis.

Our U19s squad took part with zeal and enthusiasm and all the players have come back with a true appreciation of the game to mention a great lesson in ball geography.

In particular our sincere thanks are extended to your chief John Economos for the coverage and his exemplary professional conduct on tour the club. John too also a great representative firstly behalf of your location and only the professional gave and as a success on Australian Soccer in regard other world-wide at Viareggio.

You have confirmed yet by the above support that you indeed the No.1 soccer publication in Australia.

Anthony R
Honorary Pres



OFF THE CROSSBAR



By Allan Crisp

GREEN LIGHT FOR NIGHT LIFE

It wasn't quite an overwhelming victory, but common sense eventually shone through when the South Australian Soccer Federation and its stakeholders decided on program changes for the new winter season.

Lets flick back a few ABSW issues (January 29) when we pontificated that initiative and innovation had been dealt a back hander with the decision to hamper clubs that wished to vary the days and times of their home games.

Modbury Jets and Adelaide Galaxy wanted to play all of their home fixtures on Friday nights, while newly promoted Para Hills Knights opted for Saturday evening dates when they were due to play host at The Paddocks.

Olympic FC, you may recall, had Sundays in mind as a marketable item

Golden Grove, were granted nine of its 11-home matches on Friday nights.

The other two home fixtures allotted to the Jets were Saturday fixtures the round 10 game on the holiday, Monday May 20, and the round 22 game against Olympic FC.

The latter match is one of the final round games of the season, when all six are programmed to kick-off at 2.45pm.

Galaxy also have nine of their 11 home matches set as night games at Hindmarsh Stadium, while a 10th is an afternoon kick-off at headquarters on the Easter Monday of March 30.

The Para Hills Knights will have their chance to shine under their bright new lights on seven Saturday occasions.

Chairman Tony Henshaw said, "In issuing the fixtures for this our 100th year, the board considered its programming of matches in line with the Strategic Plan undertaken at the end of last year.

"In particular, the Strategic Plan, governed the regular programming of Friday night matches at Modbury and Hindmarsh Stadium.

"As well, there are seven games programmed for Para Hills on Saturday evenings."

Henshaw said his board believed that the alternative programming could only be of benefit for the code at local level

He applauded Para Hills and Modbury in particular for investing substantial funds in installing flood-lighting.

"At the same time we recognise that some clubs were not happy about moving games from the traditional Saturday afternoon time slot.

But in this case, we were never going to get 100 percent agreement, so it was up to the board to make the final decision in the best interest of the game."

DEVOTION BEFORE DOLLARS

In this day and age when players are rewarded with phone number salaries, it's refreshing to learn that a high profile coach is doing his job on a virtual volunteer basis.

The coach in question is a current NSL mentor, who has been in charge for a record 444 games, won three NSL championships and three NSL Cup competitions.

No more clues, you may have guessed the coach is Adelaide City Force supremo, Zoran Matic.

Matic began his coaching with City in 1986, winning the championship at his first attempt.

A former Adelaide City player, he had brief coaching stints with Marconi and Collingwood before returning to City.

Matic has not been paid in the last three seasons, simply because he refuses to accept money while the club is under financial pressure.

Speculation has it that Matic is ready to blow the final whistle on his 16-year coaching career when his current three-year term with the Force expires at the end of the season.

Typically, Matic refuses to discuss next season, apart from saying, "If the club says, We want you to step down, they won't have to ask me a second time."

When Matic eventually discards his coaching clipboard, Force president Bob Dottavi wants him to continue with the club as its technical director.

HOME SWEET HOME

As South Australian soccer enters its Centenary year, some clubs are still searching for the ideal home ground.

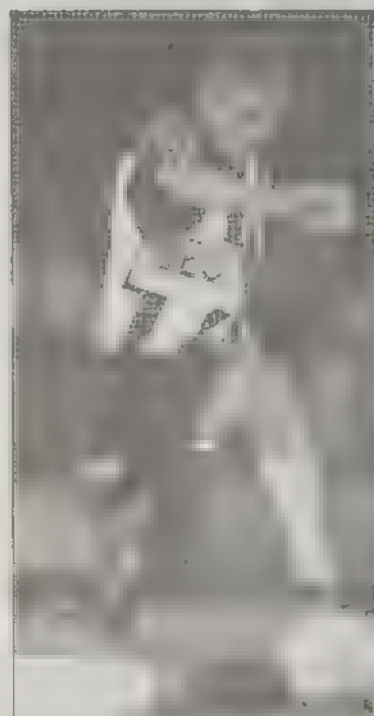
Relative newcomers, Metro Stars have no "firmament" place to call home. Consequently, the Stars are at risk of becoming known as the nomads of the league.

Last season Metro played their home fixtures at suburban Blair Athol, sharing their flight paths with the Enfield Falcons.

This season Metro Stars will pal up with the Campbelltown Red Devils by sharing the new pitch at the Newton Sports Field on alternate weeks.

Meanwhile, the Adelaide City Zebras have been programmed to play their home matches at Ram Park, but must meet a Saturday, March 23 approval deadline set by the SASF.

The most pressing need to meet the criteria is the erection of a perimeter fence



Louis Brain: The former U17 Joeys star trying his luck in England and Scotland.

BRAIN DRAIN

Former Under 17 international Louis Brain headed off for the UK last Thursday for arranged trials with Birmingham City and Oldham Athletic.

The 19-year old also will try his luck in Bonnie Scotland with Dundee and Motherwell.

A Soccer Australia tribunal deemed that Adelaide City had breached its contract with Brain so the striker or attacking midfielder departed as a free player.

SUMMER SERIES QUARTER-FINALS

HINDMARSH STADIUM
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Olympic FC v Metro Stars (6pm)
Adelaide City v Playford Patriots (8pm)

BATTLE LINES DRAWN

The Premier League season blazes into its 100th year on Friday, March 15 when Galaxy and Adelaide City clash at Hindmarsh Stadium.

PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 1

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

Galaxy v Adelaide City Zebras (Hindmarsh Stadium, 8pm)

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

Playford Patriots v Blue Eagles (Ramsay Park, 2.45pm)

Campbelltown Red Devils v Metro Stars
(Newton Sports Field, 2.45pm)

Raiders v Pirates
Croatian Sports Centre, Gepps Cross 2.45pm)

White City Woodville v Olympic FC
Woodville West Reserve, 2.45pm)

Para Hills Knights v Modbury Jets
(The Paddocks, 7pm)

STATE LEAGUE ROUND 1

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

Noarlunga Bulldogs v Seaford Surfers
(Wilf Taylor Reserve, 7.30pm)

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

Croydon Kings v Cumberland Foxes (Polonia Reserve, 2.45pm)

Northern Demons v Enfield Falcons (Byrne Park, 3.15pm)

Panthers v Sansbury Apaches (O'Sullivan Beach, 2.45pm)

Western Strikers Port Pirie City (TBA, 3.15pm)

Hills Hawks v Cobras
(Karnya Reserve, 2.45pm)

MILESTONES

Premier League clubs Pirates (formerly Port Adelaide Lion) and Raiders and State League club Cobras this season will join the SASF in celebration mode

SA's oldest club, Pirates have reached their 99th season, Raiders have hit the 50th milestone, while Cobras celebrate their 30th Anniversary.

BLUE EAGLES EXIT

Adelaide Galaxy swept Blue Eagles out of the SA Summer Series finals by downing the reigning Premier League champion 1-0 at Hindmarsh Stadium.

Greg Hagias notched the winner five minutes before half time, courtesy of a terrible goalkeeping error from Gino DeLucia.

Galaxy, Adelaide City, Olympic, Enfield and Metro Stars qualified as Group winners, while Campbelltown, Playford and Croydon Kings moved into the quarter-finals as the best three second placed teams.

Adelaide Galaxy 1 (Hagias) Blue Eagles 0. Best Galaxy: Russell,

Dawes, Pezos, Tsekini; Blue Eagles: Deleso, Zito, John Cutillo.

Cumberland Foxes 0. Cobras 0. Best Cumberland: Harkness, Billingham, Mitchell; Cobras: Karitevilis, Skoumbros, Stamatiopoulos.

ABSW's SA correspondent, Allan Crisp, West Beach coach Peter Mullar and The Advertiser soccer writer Meno Toutsidis can be heard on the Marshall Thompson Homes/Pacific Real Estate Breakfast Soccer Show each Tuesday from 7am-9am.

Former Australian international and Adelaide City coach, John Perin and SA and Blue Eagles striker Michael Brooks join Crisp each Sunday for the 5RPH (SOS) Soccer On Sunday program from 8.30am-9.30am when the latest NSL, local and overseas scores are aired along with fast breaking news, views and interviews.

Zoran Matic: Adelaide Force coach might end his 16-year coaching career.

for their home games at Thebarton Oval.

When the proposals were put to the vote the majority of clubs put the ideas to the sword.

Since then the SASF board, led by chairman, Tony Henshaw, managed to convince most of the doubting Thomas group that it would be in the interests of the game to allow program changes.

When the dust finally settled, Modbury, which had pioneered Premier League night games at

National Youth League

SOUTHERN DIVISION

FINALS SERIES

Sunday 17 February 2002

Divisional Grand Final

South Melbourne Institute1 Melbourne Knights Youth2
(Michael Batinovic) (Serkan Oksuz 2)

By Roy Hay

Melbourne Knights Youth made it back to back Southern Division titles when it came from behind to beat Minor Premiers South Melbourne Institute at Bob Jane Stadium on Sunday night.

Not having beaten Souths all season, the Knights knew it would be hard, defensive battle and lined up with four men in defence and a sweeper behind and four in midfield, with Serkan Oksuz playing a lone hand up front.

Even this defensive cover was not enough to prevent South Melbourne taking the lead after only six minutes. Adam Jelic did not pick up a cross from Cameron Miles on the end of a sweeping South Melbourne move.

A header was blocked and fell to Michael Batinovic gave the Knights' keeper Adam Hrehoresin no chance. South should have

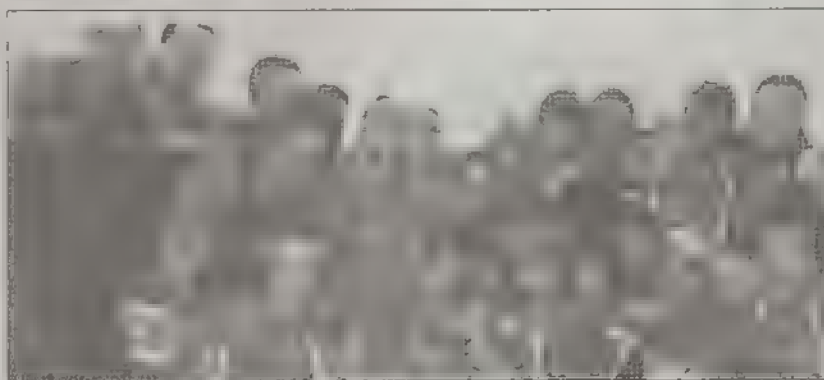
added to its lead but found Hrehoresin in stunning form. One save from Vince Lia, when the ball was behind him, took the breath away

Gradually however the Knights began to weather the South storm and equalized on the half-hour mark. Oksuz got free of the South

defence following a disputed corner kick to score a critical goal.

The Knights brought on Tony Saric to support the attack and he did introduce an extra threat. The match seesawed with both teams making and missing chances until with eight minutes left Oksuz spun clear once again to score the winner

Three minutes later he picked up his second yellow card to complete an incident packed game.



Melbourne Knights: Southern Division champions celebrate their victory over South Melbourne.

NORTHERN DIVISION

RESULTS RD 19

Postponed Match From Rd 17 - Played on Wednesday 13 February 2002

NSWIS 1 ACTAS 2
(Own goal 25') (Ivanic 42', Barisic 70')

FRIDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2002

NSWIS 1 Brisbane Toro 3
(Cardozo 69') (Otto 28', Mikula 53', Fallini 55')

SATURDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2002

Wollongong Wolves Youth 1 AIS 3
(Aleksic 94') (Danche 5', 54', Lagana 77')

QAS 2 Parramatta Power 1
(Hilton 1', Morley 87') (Gavaghan 83')

Marconi Stallions Youth 8 Marconi Stallions Colts 1
(Anabalon 10', Radulovic 14', Care 22', 63', 76', Rivera 30', 72', K. O'Brien 50')

Sydney United Colts 1 Northern Spirit Youth 3
(Simic 5') (Burgess 12', Stergiopoulos 73', 87')

SUNDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2002

Olympic Sharks Youth 5 Newcastle United Youth 3
(Own goal 13', Agius 22', 44', 54', (Majurovski 19', 88', Davelaar 89')

ACTAS 0 Sydney United Youth 4
(Jedinak 10', Sanralab 46', 66', Clowes 55')

AT THE TIME OF PRINTING THE YOUTH LEAGUE TABLES WERE UNAVAILABLE

SOCCER WOMAN BY JANENE MAR

WNSL 2001/02 - Round Nine

With one round remaining before the WNSL grandfinal, NSW Sapphires has secured first place, whilst Queensland Sting edged a point ahead of Canberra Eclipse in the race for the coveted second berth.

At the other end of the ladder, Northern NSW Pride catapulted themselves from last to fourth spot.

NORTHERN NSW PRIDE 3

(Lorissa Stevens 32m, Hayley Crawford 77m, Lauren Corbridge 88m)

VICTORIA VISION 0

at Jack McLaughlan Oval, Newcastle

Northern NSW Pride followed up last week's first victory for the season with a

second win on Sunday, 3-0 over Victoria Vision. An already depleted Vision, this time missing key player Louisa Bisby, were down to ten players after the dismissal of Selin Kuralay, shown her second yellow card ten minutes after half-time.

In a very even first half in the sapping Newcastle heat, Northern broke the deadlock in the 32nd minute. Fullback Lorissa Stevens set off into attack from half-way, played a one-two on the edge of the 18-yard box and nailed her shot from 12 metres.

Kuralay was sent from the field ten minutes after the restart, and a minute later, Stevens had another raid into attack but her fantastic shot was saved by the keeper.

Victoria's best chance saw Katrina Smith's strike well saved, and a minute

later, a Northern goal was disallowed for offside.

But the attacking Pride held the upper hand and doubled the lead in the 77th minute. Hayley Crawford the scorer from a goalmouth scramble. With two minutes to go, Pride's Meegan Shepherd hit the crossbar from a freekick, and Lauren Colthorpe put away the rebound.

Pride - Betteridge, Ingles (Wilson 86), Shepherd, Atwill, Stevens, Dunne, Amber Nelson, Randall (Tristram 44), McMillan, Colthorpe 65, Gill, Crawford

Vision - Barbieri, McEvoy, Romano (A Kapusta 58), Smith, Groenewald, Lamb, Humble, Digiammarco, Vardakas, Terek (Pacella 52), Kuralay.

THE SUNDAY ROUND TEN

The battle for second place and the right to take on NSW Sapphires for this year's WNSL crown goes down to the wire in this Saturday's last round. Queensland Sting and Canberra Eclipse have grappled with each other all season long, and after falling slightly behind, Sting has fought back to a one-point lead and a two-goal better goal difference over Eclipse.

Sting however have the enormous challenge of trying to knock off the undefeated NSW Sapphires to secure points, although will take great confidence from the fact they have been the only team to take a point off the leaders.

Eclipse have a more difficult task than they probably anticipated, taking on a Northern NSW Pride outfit which has hit good form since this month's resumption of the league and on something of a roll with

QUEENSLAND STING 3

(Lana Harch 32m, 56m, Jessica Mitchell 60m)

ADELAIDE SENSATION 0

at Gold Park, Toowoomba

WNSL made its first appearance in Toowoomba on Saturday, and Lana Harch, one of Sting's four local products, thrilled the crowd with a goal in each half to help set up the vital win.

Defending champions Queensland Sting were impressive in today's important clash, and unlucky not to win by more. Running with the wind in the first half, Adelaide Sensation created danger in attack with the long ball, making for a fairly even contest.

However, Sting went on to dominate proceedings after half-time with an effective attacking display.

Adelaide almost snatched the opening goal after three minutes, Lia Augimeri released one-on-one with the keeper with a fine through-ball, but her shot sailing over. Toowoomba's Olivia Hohake had a run of chances without success before teammate Natalie

Thomas hit the woodwork approaching the half-hour mark

Soon after, Harch gave Queensland the lead. Thomas' raid up the right flank ended with a cross which glanced off the Adelaide sweeper's head in an attempt to clear, allowing Harch to plant the ball home

Harch's second came in the 56th minute, turning two defenders upon receiving a Jessica Mitchell cross and finishing with a fantastic strike into the top corner of goal from 20 metres. Four minutes later, Queensland scored their third, Mitchell this time the scorer. Successfully taking on two opponents, Mitchell's low shot hit the post and went in

Sting - Beattie, Bartlett, Grant, Garven, Retter (Williams 77), Mitchell (Canham 77), Hohake, Ferguson (McShea 77), Harch (Nolan 88), Mann, Thomas (Cusack 83).

Sensation - Frimboli, May, Burgess (Harrison 68), Gawth, Slater Papageorgiou 58), Winn, Salisbury, Stocco, Madden (Katianos 68, Augimeri, De Vanna.

PROGRESSIVE POINTS LADDER

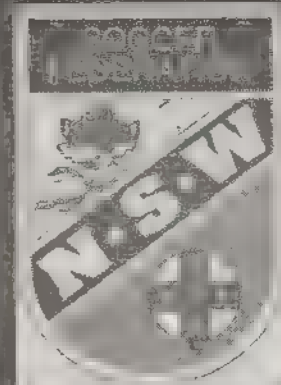
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
NSW SAPPHIRES	9	8	1	0	36	7	29	25
QUEENSLAND STING	9	5	3	1	16	5	11	18
CANBERRA ECLIPSE	9	5	2	2	17	8	9	17
NORTHERN NSW PRIDE	9	2	1	6	14	29	-15	7
ADELAIDE SENSATION	9	2	0	7	8	22	-14	6
VICTORIA VISION	9	1	1	7	4	24	-20	4

LEADING GOALSCORERS 2001/02

8	Caillin MUNOZ	Canberra Eclipse
7	Alicia CAVANAGH	NSW Sapphires
7	Kelly GOLEBIEWSKI	NSW Sapphires
5	Katie GILL	Northern NSW Pride
4	Joanne PETERS	NSW Sapphires
4	Lana HARCH	Queensland Sting

NEW SOUTH WALES PREMIER LEAGUE

www.nswpremierleague.com



FEATURE MATCH

Bankstown City Lions



VS



Leichhardt Tigers

KICK-OFF: 1pm & 5pm, Saturday 23 February 2002
VENUE: Jensen Park, Blapham St, Sutherland

It will be standing room only at Jensen Park on Saturday night as the Lions host the Tigers in the game looming as this week's "Match of the Round."

One loss in their past eight games will confirm Bankstown as the game favourites, with coach Ljube Jancev confident his side can continue their recent good form.

"Leichhardt will be very tough," said Jancev. "They have a number of good forwards that we need to be careful of. They play a very attacking game and move the ball quickly through the midfield so we must make sure we mark up and not allow them any space."

Since taking over the Lions in mid December the club has won five, drawn two and lost just once, racking up an impressive tally of 23 goals and conceding just 13. The former champi-

onship winning coach likes these numbers but is also mindful that his side needs to keep winning games in order to maintain their position in the Top Five.

"Every game is a must win for us," said Jancev. "The competition is so tight that anybody can beat anybody else so we must play at our best every week." The only player causing any problems is Robert Angievski who has a groin problem but he is expected to pass a fitness test and be included in the Lions squad.

Leichhardt have had more ups and downs than a fiddlers elbow in recent weeks and will be looking to fend off Bankstown as an opportunity to consolidate their spot in the Top Five.

"It's been a tough few weeks," conceded Leichhardt skipper Sam La Rocca. "On our day we are very hard to beat but of late those days have been few

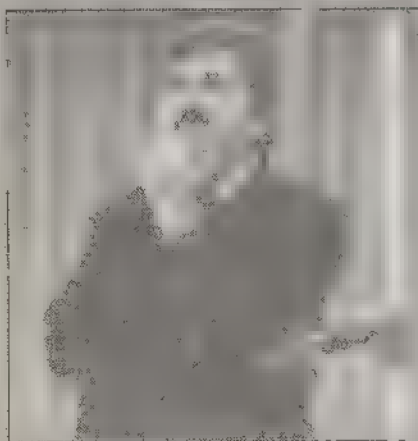
and far between."

With a number of players back from injury, coach Les De Celis will have a full strength squad for their trip to Jensen Park. Joe Moric returns after a week's suspension, Michael Galluzzo is back after an ankle injury and Steve Livingstone has also recovered from a leg injury. The only player in doubt is Joe Bruni who is still week to week, while Harry James could be a surprise inclusion having returned from trials overseas.

"Bankstown aren't going to be easy," said La Rocca. "They have some good players on their side and we must be on our game defensively to keep them in check. But I am confident we can match them. It won't be easy but I am confident we have enough to win."

Round Five result:
Leichhardt 1 (Stubbs-Mills)
Bankstown 1 (MacDonald).

SQUADS



Bankstown City supreme. Ljube Jancev: "Every game is a must win for us."

LIONS: 1. Zlatko Josevski, 2. Sefer Yildiz, 3. Richard Lukic, 4. Bryan Raeburn, 5. Anthony Kanaan, 6. Paul Wearne, 7. George Issa, 8. Robert Issa, 9. Goce Trposki, 10. Ian MacDonald, 11. Alex Trposki, 12. Adam Mammoliti, 13. Saso Boskovski, 14. Freddy Umitil, 15. Damir Lukic, 16. Colin Luff, 17. Steven Dimitrievski, 18. Dong-Ki Kim, 19. Robert Angievski, 20. Gam Akli, 21. Daren Iocca, 22. Leo Carle. Coach: Ljube Jancev.
TIGERS: 1. Andrew Crews, 2. Kelvin Foster, 3. Joe Moric, 4. Ross Kethel, 5. Steven Livingstone, 6. Michael Galluzzo, 7. Joe Bruni, 8. James Stubbs-Mills, 9. Alan Picken, 10. Steve Karavatakis, 11. Sam La Rocca, 12. Jeremy Brown, 13. Andrew Falas, 15. Ryan Jones, 16. Anthony Tesoro, 17. Jason Lai, 20. John Pau Boutros, 23. Derek Palmer. Coach: Les De Celis.

New Tech Automotive, Direct Smash Repairs, G.Mack & Co: Accountants, Alex Electrical, Bus

Wood, MACO.com.au, Wholesale Trainers

PREMIER LEAGUE

ROUND 16

Saturday February 23

1st Grade U19

Canterbury	v	Belconnen BD	Henson Park	6:30pm	4:30pm
Blacktown City	v	Fairfield Bulls	Gabbie Stadium	7:00pm	5:00pm
Bankstown City	v	Leichhardt Tigers	Jensen Park	7:00pm	5:00pm
Bonnyrigg WE	v	St George Saints	Serbian Centre	7:00pm	5:00pm
Sutherland Sharks	v	Parramatta Eagles	Seymour Shaw	7:00pm	5:00pm
Central Coast	v	Pennrith Panthers	Plum Park	7:00pm	5:00pm

ROUND 17

Friday March 1

1st Grade U19

St George	v	Bankstown City	St George Stad	8:00pm	6:00pm
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Saturday March 2

Fairfield Bulls	v	Sutherland Sharks	Nineveh Field	7:00pm	5:00pm
Belconnen BD	v	Central Coast	Hawker Oval	5:00pm	3:00pm
Pennrith Panthers	v	Bonnyrigg WE	Andrews Rd Fld	7:00pm	5:00pm

Sunday March 3

Parramatta Eagles	v	Canterbury	Melita Stadium	6:30pm	4:30pm
Leichhardt Tigers	v	Blacktown City	Lambert Park	5:00pm	3:00pm

Rescheduled Fixtures

Round 12: Wednesday 27 February: Under 19:

Leichhardt Tigers	v	Fairfield Bulls	Lambert Park	7:00pm
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Round 13: Wednesday 13 March: Under 19:

Pennrith Panthers	v	Leichhardt Tigers	Lambert Park	7:15pm
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Round 13: Tuesday 19 February Under 19:

Central Coast	v	Blacktown City	Plum Park	7:15pm
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Round 13: Wednesday 20 February 1st Grade:

Blacktown City	v	Blacktown City	Plum Park	7:15pm
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Round 14: Wednesday 20 February 1st Grade:

Bonnyrigg WE	v	Fairfield Bulls	Serbian Centre	8:00pm
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Round 14: Wednesday 20 February Under 19:

Bonnyrigg WE	v	Fairfield Bulls	Serbian Centre	6:00pm
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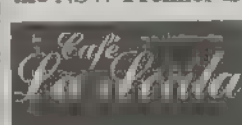


ST. GEORGE



SHARKS

The Cafe La Scala Player of the Week after Round 15 of the NSW Premier League is:



Karl Freeman
Central Coast Coasties

Cafe La Scala is located at Shop 32, Piazza Level, Italian Forum, 23 Norton St, Leichhardt. Phone: (02) 9572 8377

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- Scoreboard & Picture GalleryP19

NSW Premier League

PREVIEW ROUND SIXTEEN

FAIRFIELD BEWARE



Central Coast Coasties

VS

Penrith Panthers



KICK-OFF: 7pm & 5pm, Saturday 23 February 2002

VENUE: Plum Park, Tuggerah St, Lisarow (Central Coast)

The Coasties have finally put together a couple of wins and given themselves a sniff of the post season.

The bottom line is, they need to beat Penrith at the very least if they want that run to continue.

Seven goals in 180 minutes of football have the Coasties riding the crest of the wave but they will be in for a torrid time against a Panthers unit noted for their physical style of play. The Panthers are well out of the race for the Top Five but they can still give plenty of cheek.

Former Coasties striker Rod Hutchinson is the player to watch, as he would like nothing better than to add a couple more goals to his impressive tally of nine, and sink his former side.

Round Five Result: Penrith 0 Central Coast 1 (Matthews).

SQUADS

COASTIES: 1. Matthew Colbits, 2. Sean Matthews, 3. Marc Faizon, 4. Danny Burt, 5. Mitchell Daey, 7. Peter Preston, 8. Adam Peatey, 9. Damien Smith, 10. Mick Williams, 11. Karl Freeman, 12. Peter Leary, 13. Peter Ritchie, 14. Andrew Clark, 15. Gary Wilson, 22. Darren Moore, **Coach:** Dale Eggleton

PANTHERS: 1. Chad Taylor, 2. Jon Hawkins, 3. Chris Giometti, 4. Glenn Melak, 5. Ben Wright, 6. Daniel Wells, 7. Dave Gardner, 8. Paul Marosevic, 9. Rod Hutchinson, 10. Osvaldo Elia, 11. Luke O'Connell, 12. Christian Luma, 13. Jason Sciberras, 14. Wayne Berrigan, 15. Danny Hinton, 17. Shane Hammond, 18. Gustavo Orca, 20. Tim O'Connell, 21. Ryan Noble, 25. Marty McCaffery, 26. Luke Boyd, 24. Kurt Van Arkel, **Coach:** Tony Rassmussen

Central Coast Leagues Club



Blacktown City Demons

VS

Fairfield Bulls



KICK-OFF: 7pm & 5pm, Saturday 23 February 2002

VENUE: Gabbie Stadium, Quinn Ave, Seven Hills

Blacktown's form of late has been hard to predict but if they are anything short of their best they could pay a heavy price.

Coach Brian Brown is currently without the services of Damon Langan and Paul Yates who are both on the injured list, but still has one of the best squads in the competition and in their current plight, they need to lift enormously.

Fairfield ran out of puff late in their game against Bankstown and conceded two late goals to go down 3-2.

With a catch-up game mid-week against Bonnyrigg and then the trip to Gabbie Stadium, the Bulls 2001/2 campaign could

well be determined come 9pm on Saturday evening.

Round Five Result: Fairfield 2

(Borg, Carle pen) Blacktown 6 (Reid, Donev x2, Nikas, Imaya, Hagger).

SQUADS

DEMONS: 1. John Crawley, 2. Dane Hokin, 3. Damien Foxe, 4. Peter Sermanni, 5. Ben Ward, 6. Damon Langan, 7. Paul Dee, 8. Michael Smith, 9. Kain Rastal, 10. Naoki Imaya, 11. Jim Nikas, 12. Zlatko Donev, 13. Steve Riches, 14. David Reid, 15. Mark Hagger, 16. Patrick Gatt, 17. Luciano Berbis, 18. Graeme O'Done, 19. Chad Lewis, 20. James Wilkinson, **Coach:** Brian Brown

BULLS: 1. Frank Miletic, 2. Adam Snyder, 3. Mathew Dirm, 4. Paul Bourke, 6. Paul Richardson, 7. Ray Youngs, 8. Stewart Van Bentum, 9. Marc Hoenselaars, 10. Mathew Borg, 11. Richard Harrison, 12. Tom Mark, 14. Ismael Arrarte, 15. Nick Bosevski, 16. Andy Ravanelli, 17. Craig Sharpley, 19. Jason Connolly, 20. Ali Akbel, **Coach:** Craig Sharpley

Football Club, Cadbury



C'tbury M'ville Olympic

VS

Belconnen Blue Devils



KICK-OFF: 6.30pm & 4.30pm, Saturday 23 February 2002

VENUE: Henson Park, Sydenham Rd/Centennial St, Marrickville

Canterbury's four game unbeaten run came to an end last week at the hands of a fired up Coasties outfit, but Olympic have done enough in the past month to suggest they'll be hard to beat in this one.

The return to their home ground of Henson Park has done wonders for the club where they have lost just twice this season.

Belconnen picked up a handy three points last weekend with a 3-2 defeat of Sutherland, but with a log jam emerging at the top of the table they need to continue winning if they are to maintain their place.

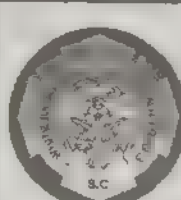
Round Five Result: Belconnen 3 (Macor x2, Lazzari) Canterbury 0.

SQUADS

OLYMPIC: 1. Les Binar, 2. Greg Collins, 3. Christian Ortiz, 4. John Manolopoulos, 5. Mark D'Alessandro, 6. Andy Amegashie, 7. Con Paradisis, 8. Yane Talceviski, 9. Anthony Doumanis, 10. Hussein Jomaa, 11. Aheleas Kotsopoulos, 12. John Pillemer, 13. Fernando Pellegrino, 14. Nihad Alemdic, 15. Manuel Papageorgiou, 16. Angelo Markopoulos, 17. Marcelo Guerrero, 18. Ali Salim, 19. Michael Kladis, 20. Tristan Tulloch, **Coach:** Laki Konistis

BLUE DEVILS: 1. Anthony Giannasca, 2. Toplica Popovich, 3. Matthew Cachia, 4. Elliot Zwangobani, 5. Nic Purdue, 6. Shane Lyons, 8. Michael Katz, 9. John Rakic, 10. Daniel Macor, 11. David Arranz, 12. Jaime Mauro, 13. Stewart Camara, 14. Marko Petrovic, 15. Adnan Dowling, 16. Oscar Zamora, 17. Stephen Kemp, 18. David Milin, 19. Daniel Camara, 20. Rade Kosanovic, **Coach:** Lino Fiorese

Olympic Airways & Meraklis Tailors



Bonnyrigg WE

VS

St George Saints



KICK-OFF: 7pm & 5pm, Saturday 23 February 2002

VENUE: Serbian Centre, 13 Simpson Road, Bonnyrigg

A few weeks ago you would have considered the Saints a 500/1 chance of causing an upset in this game but after Bonnyrigg's erratic recent form and the Saints two wins, those odds have been lowered sharply.

Bonnyrigg have not been beaten all season at the Serbian Centre and that runs in favour of the home side — but if they are even slightly off their game the Saints have the firepower to make them pay dearly. Striker Bruno Beddom has turned the clock back 10 years and is again scoring at will (4 goals in 4 games) making him the one to watch in this encounter.

Round Five Result: St George 0 Bonnyrigg 5 (Aschner, Tomasevic x2, Knight x2)

SQUADS

WHITE EAGLES: 1. Fernando Greco, 2. Sasha Utesenovic, 4. Bobby Dragas, 5. Tayfun Devrimol, 6. Vuko Tomasevic, 7. Javier Mancino, 8. David Harding, 9. Shane Knight, 10. Christopher Bradley, 11. Johnny Ghiso, 13. Robert Gomez, 14. Leigh Gunn, 15. Peter Oklavovski, 16. Michael Hawrysiuk, 17. Jimmy Aschner, 18. John Kyriazopoulos, 20. David Aceski, 22. Rajko Mandic, 23. Devrim Huseyin, **Coach:** Greg Wardhouse

SAINTS: 1. Stacy Angelis, 2. Mark Baranis, 3. Nick Bonolis, 4. Angelo Petras, 5. Max Sevares, 6. Spyros Katsis, 7. George Maglis, 8. Bruno Beddom, 9. Aheleas Markopoulos, 11. John Fotiadis, 12. Fabio Macolino, 13. Natl Codmani, 14. Steven Papadopoulos, 15. Nick Mandic, 16. Simon Verrinder, 17. Manny Spanoudakis, 18. Sa Zilio, 19. Mladen Damjanovic, 21. Brad Campbell, 22. John Christou, 23. Joshua Rufo, **Coach:** Manny Spanoudakis

B & S Windows



NSW Premier League



FROM THE SIDELINES *with Greg Stock and Paul Goodwin*

Former St. George Assistant Coach and 'Cobbler to the Stars' Ian Gillan is sharing the spotlight of the Saints recent win against the Tigers.

It seems that striker Archie Markopoulos sought Gillan's help on the morning of the game asking him to make some running repair to his boots before the match.

After two hours of solid work at his Chatswood workshop, the boots were returned with Markopoulos promising they would be put to good use that night.

What happened on the park that night is now 'legend' in the Saints camp with those boots leading Archie to score 2 goals including the winner. Rumour has it the cobbler has had plenty of requests for work from other Saints this week!

◆◆◆◆
Sutherland's huge injury toll is continuing to mount.

This time it's midfielder Steve Cklamovski causing some concern with a dose of food poisoning.

David O'Han is also in grave doubt for the remainder of the season with a badly bruised foot while defender Peter Feehan is still four weeks away from resuming from a broken collarbone and Dean Spresian is resigned to the fact his season is over, without kicking a ball, with a chronic back problem.

"We have our problems," said an upbeat Coach Billy McColl, "but there are still a lot of positives and we'll be competitive, don't you worry. Alex Pfrengle is also only days away from being a dad so there is some good news already"

◆◆◆◆
While Sutherland's injury crisis worsens, there is no such trouble for Blacktown City Coach Brian Brown who welcomed back Mark Hagger, Paul Dee and Kain Rastall on the weekend.

Brown has been working hard on the side's recent form and feels a turnaround is in sight.

"With the depth we have in the squad we should be playing much better," said Brown. "I believe it's a case of working hard, and if we get some luck we'll give someone a really hard time."

◆◆◆◆
Canterbury striker Mark Beldham is set to be released by the club after going to New Zealand on work commitments.

It seems the Miramar Rangers are keen on securing the services of Beldham who will be based in the "shakey isles" for the majority of the winter season. 'Super Coach' Laki Konistis took his unbeaten record to three wins and a draw with the win over the Panthers two weeks back, and it's interesting to note that the Berries form reversal has coincided with the club's return to their home ground of Henson Park!

◆◆◆◆
Canterbury-Marrickville is holding their Junior Season launch for the Super Youth League Season on March 2nd at the Town Restaurant, Alexandria. Tickets can be purchased by contacting Laki Konistis on 0411 191 815.

Special guests will include newly elected NSW Soccer Federation President Tom Doumanis and NSW Soccer Federation Director, Jim Ronis.



Steve Cklamovski of Sutherland Sharks (left) in action against Bankstown City's Freddy Umili.

Bankstown City goalkeeper Zlatko Josevski deserves a lot of the credit for his side's 2-2 draw with the highflying Parramatta Eagles two weeks back.

Early in the second half Josevski injured his ankle

when chasing down a ball in the penalty box, but knowing his side had used all three replacements, hobbled through the final 20 minutes or so to secure his side a point. Clearly troubled by the ankle and unable to run, he was still

able to pull off two brilliant saves in the dying minutes.

Lions' Coach Ljube Jancev was quick to heap praise on Josevski calling his performance nothing short of exceptional.

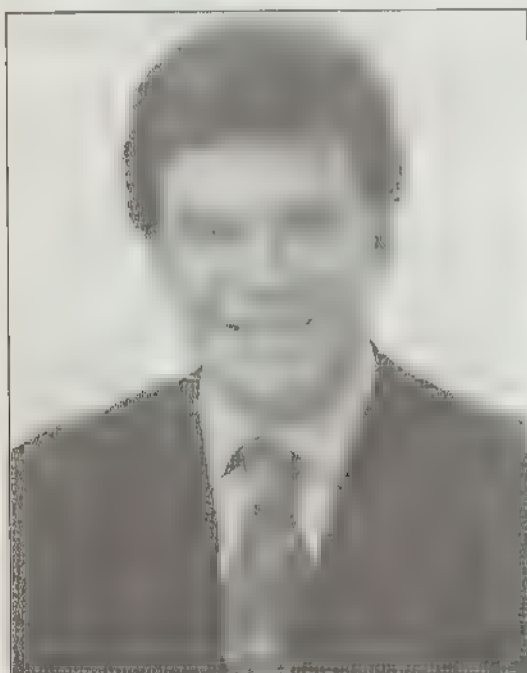
◆◆◆◆

Penrith Panthers' Coach Tony Rassmussen at last has the luxury of wondering who to leave out of his first fourteen following the return from overseas of Ben Wright and the recovery from injury of Glenn Meilak.

Wright came back from Europe a short time ago with an ankle injury sustained in a skiing accident, but the rugged sweeper could be 'right' in as little as two weeks and as many as four. Meilak has been sweating it out in the under 19s for four weeks now waiting for the call into the first team squad.

◆◆◆◆
Leichhardt's James Stubbs-Mills looks set to head overseas for further experience and could be joining Kent Doc Martens club Sittingbourne at end of the current Premier League season.

The Tigers midfielder has also expressed an interest in playing in Singapore where the full-time professional set up makes a lot of appeal to many Australian players. Leichhardt Tigers plays newly promoted Super League side Ryde City Gunners at Lambert Park tonight (Tuesday) at 7pm in what shapes as an intriguing contest.



The only man to lead Australia to the World Cup finals, Johnny Warren, is a product of the youth system at Canterbury Marrickville Olympic. Olympic have been around since 1889 and have produced many, many great players, two of which, John Manolopoulos and Archie Kotsopoulos are current first-graders at Henson Park.



Sutherland Sharks VS Parramatta Eagles



KICK-OFF: 7pm & 5pm, Saturday 23 February 2002
VENUE: Seymour Shaw, The Boulevard, Miranda

This looks to be a real David and Goliath struggle with the bottom placed Sharks meeting the form side of the competition in Parramatta.

Sutherland are in the midst of an injury crisis with O'Han, Spresian, Cklamovski, Josevski and Blowes all in doubt for this important clash and coach Billy McColl will need to draft in some youngsters to fill some holes. The Eagles will look upon this game as a must win and on form should sweep aside the opposition.

Round Five Result: Parramatta 3 (Cummins, Bakis, Mondello) Sutherland 1 (M. Pfrengle pen).

SQUADS

SHARKS: 1. Dennes Ola 2. Peter Feehan, 3. Allen Stajic 4. David O'Han 5. Ben Short 6. Dean Heffernan 7. Jamie Danaskos 8. Monte Pfrengle 9. Alex Pfrengle 10. Steve Cklamovski 11. Kns Karanasos 12. Dean Spresian 13. Ambrose Mancia 14. Simon Miller 15. Colin McAusland 16. Kire Josevski 17. Bill Petrovski 20. Sam LaMach 21. Mitchell Blowes, **Coach:** Billy McColl

EAGLES: 1. Jason Holmes 2. Daniel Borg 3. Geoff Dwyer 4. Malcolm Meilak 5. Mark Reveley 6. Mirko Jurilj 7. Mauricio Isas 8. Daniel Kukucka 9. Anthony Mondello 10. Tony Mittiga 11. Jim Bakis 13. Paul O'Grady 12. Glenn Sprod 14. Stephen Chipps 15. Ben Delicata 16. Geoff Howarth 19. Daniel Cummins 21. Joel Morgan **Coach:** Tam Finlayson



NEW SOUTH WALES PREMIER LEAGUE

PRODUCTION: Emma Nwaneri, Elly Vea, Mary Quartly, Mark Stavrouakis
CO-ORDINATOR: Binesh Muqattar
WRITERS: Greg Stock, Paul Goodwin, Claire Kileen, Lezette Isaac, Ray Sandell, Nick Guoth, Robbie Bartolillo, Gary Vandeburgt
PHOTOGRAPHY: Carlos Furtado

* All information is courtesy of the New South Wales Soccer Federation
NSWSF
Valentine Sports Park
235-257 Meurants Lane
GLENWOOD NSW 2768
Phone: (02) 9629 1800

NSW Premier League



Central Coast Coasties 3 Canterbury-M'ville 1

By Paul Goodwin

Playing with passion and self belief, after very little luck in previous weeks, Central Coast produced a remarkable second half performance to down Canterbury-Marrickville 3-1 at Plum Park on Saturday night, despite playing the last 70 minutes with only ten men.

A severe storm and deluge which prevented the teams returning to the field for 25 minutes at the break, appeared to unsettle the Berries who had looked well in control after going ahead from a 19th minute penalty.

Aheleas Kotsopoulos had proven far too nippy for Peter Ritchie and was upended in the box with Con Paradis slotting away the spot kick very adroitly for the lead.

Kotsopoulos again was a handful for Ritchie on the approach to goal and a second caution meant dismissal for the unfortunate Ritchie.

Canterbury's livewire attack well led by Andy Amegashie threatened constantly and it was no different after the rain had eased off, but very solid defence from stand-outs Mitch Daley and Sean Matthews was the key to launch a sensational revival, spearheaded by two-goal hero Karl Freeman.

Freeman was supremely confident as he time and again took on the Berries' defence and took both his goals like a seasoned striker. Much more can be expected of this former Broadmeadow Norths NSW player, who joined the Coasties only this season.

While Canterbury looked the more dangerous in the first period, a 15th minute volley from Ryan McKendrick had to be pushed away by Berries' keeper Les Bihari and a Sean Matthews shot was tipped onto the bar in the 30th.

Half the Plum Park lights went out ten minutes before the break, as the storm began to hit and torrential rain while the players were in the sheds provided the huddled crowd with plenty of spectacular viewing under the remaining lights, which were restored a little later.

Conditions improved by 8:15pm and the Coasties began to make their mark very early on upon their return.

Coasties' two-goal hero, Karl Freeman.

Matthews, who played Freeman in behind the defence saw the previously out of luck striker with the chance to finish deftly in the 57th.

Mick Williams was denied by a great Bihari save in the 62nd, but Paradis rocked the Coasties' crossbar in the 64th and Amegashie went close with headers and a shot as the game swung from end to end, Darren Moore also saving well from the dangerous Amegashie in the 74th.

Adam Peatey set up Freeman with a good chance in the 71st, but the shot was slightly wayward, though it was not long before the home side hit the lead.

Andrew Clark made a run on the right and fed Freeman whose strong finish brought the house down.

This was the 82nd minute and the Berries had lost Michael Kladis to a leg injury just moments before and were, at the time, short handed.

There was icing on the cake in stoppage time as Mitchell Daley, a stand out in defence all night, set up substitute Peter Haynes to finish with ease and wrap up a 3-1 win. Daley and Matthews stood tall in the Coasties defence, making the task of Amegashie and Kotsopoulos all the harder, while Freeman and Wilson both had very strong games for a local side that stood tall.

Canterbury played well, but had no answer to the exciting Coasties outfit on the night.

Coasties 3 (K Freeman 57m/82m, P Haynes 91m)
Olympic 1 (C Paradis 19m pen)

CENTRAL COAST: Darren Moore, Sean Matthews, Andrew Clark, Mitch Daley, Peter Ritchie, Ryan McKendrick, Gary Wilson (Scott Jones 88), Adam Peatey, Ricky Metcalf (Peter Leary 71), Michael Williams, Karl Freeman (Peter Haynes 89)

CANTERBURY-MARRICKVILLE: Les Bihari, John Manolopoulos, Mark D'Alessandro, Michael Kladis (John Pillemer 82), Andy Amegashie, Con Paradis, Greg Collins, Angelo Markopoulos (Nihad Alernic 58), Yane Talceviski, Anthony Dumanis (Emmanuel Papageorgiou 46), Aheleas Kotsopoulos

Cautions: Andrew Clark 6 (CC), Peter Ritchie 19, 21 (CC), Ricky Metcalf 52 (CC), Emmanuel Papageorgiou 90 (CM)

Sent Off: Peter Ritchie 21 (CC)

Referee: Craig Pearce

Assistants: Gordon Selkirk and Peter Gibbs

Fourth Official: Emie Horvath



Penrith Panthers 0 St George Saints 2

By Binesh Mudaliar

Manny Spanoudakis' St George Saints recorded their second win on the trot to move off the bottom of the NSW Premier League ladder in an eye-opening display of football at Andrews Road Field on Saturday night.

Lifelong St George fans commented after the game, "Why couldn't we play like this at the start of the season?"

An interesting question indeed considering that the class stable of players such as Markopoulos,



George Maglis played a crucial role in lifting the Saints off the bottom of the ladder.

Maglis, Alogdellis, Petratos, Sevares and Verrender were at the Saints disposal since Day One way back in October, last year. Maybe, the shrewd signing of veteran striker Bruno Beddoni by Spanoudakis has been the catalyst for St George's form reversal.

Beddoni, who amazingly spent the last winter season playing in State League Division Two, looked as sharp as a man half his age, with his two first-half goals stunning those of the Andrews Road faithful so conditioned to seeing their Panthers grind out stirring wins and draws on their home turf.

Beddoni's first for the night came in 20th minute, when former Bankstown City Lion Nabil Codmani's shot from just outside the box ricocheted for Beddoni to score past Chad Taylor with a looping header.

Shortly before half-time Beddoni added a second with a decisive penalty-kick after he had been illegally rugged back by David Gardiner.

No further goals in the second half, but plenty of action with Beddoni hitting the upright in the 68th minute to be denied his hat trick. Plenty of fireworks also when Jade Permail entered the arena for the Saints. His blistering pace is a sight to behold for any sports fan.

The one sour note for the Saints was the late substitution of Archie Markopoulos, the side's best player due to injury.

Penrith 0
St George 2 (B Beddoni 20m/39m)

PENRITH: Taylor, Giometti, Gardiner, Marosevic, Hutchinson (T O'Connell 45m), El Ali (Dowling 77m), L O'Connell, Sciberras, Hinton, Noble (Wells 71m), McCaffrey

ST GEORGE: Alogdellis, Baranis, Petratos, Sevares, Maglis (Permail 74m), Beddoni (Campbell 81m), Markopoulos (Fotiadis 71m), Codmani, Verrender, Damjanovic, Zullo

Cautions: Beddoni 16m, Gardiner 38m, El Ali 43m, Sciberras 66m, McCaffrey 77m, Campbell 85m, T O'Connell 86m

Referee: V Gaudi

Assistant Refs: J Barnes, P Verrender

4th Official: B Seymour



Leichhardt Tigers 1 Bonnyrigg WE 0

By Paul Goodwin

Leichhardt Tigers recovered well from their shock loss the previous week to down Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1-0 at Lambert Park on Sunday evening.

A rather physical affair was marked by a lack of excitement in the first half and a complete turnaround in the second.

Tigers' keeper Andrew Crews was by far the busier of the two keepers, making a number of crucial finger tip saves, while Fernando Greco at the other end was punished for only once failing to hold a shot cleanly, in the 52nd minute, resulting in the winning goal for the home side.

Leichhardt had Steve Livingstone back on deck to marshal the defence and were at full strength apart from some members of the side carrying



Steve Karavatakis secured a vital three points for the Leichhardt Tigers.

knocks into the game.

The Tigers could have been caught out in the 36th when Michael Galluzzo was dispossessed, close to goal, by John Kyriazopoulos, but the Bonnyrigg man was too indecisive when confronted with the keeper and blew his opportunity.

The second half was much more explosive than the first.

Seven minutes into this period Derek Pomer won the ball in the middle of the park and sent Allan Picken through to face Greco who beat down the shot only for the late arriving Steve Karavatakis to lash the ball into the unguarded net, from an angle on the right.

Bonnyrigg then spent the rest of the game trying to get back that early second half goal, but the Leichhardt defence stood firm.

Bobby Dragas sent a screamer from 25 yards out that Crews managed to tip over in the 54th minute and substitute Jimmy Aschner clipped another effort over the bar in the 62nd as Crews came racing off his line to narrow the angle.

Picken made some good runs for the Tigers as the clock wound down and one of them provided a cross that Karavatakis should have buried in the 81st to seal the issue early.

As it was the later efforts from Robbie Gomez

and Shane Knight were dealt with well by Crews and Leichhardt was able to hang on and win 1-0.

Tigers 1 (Karavatakis 52m)
Bonnyrigg WE 0

LEICHHARDT TIGERS: Andrew Crews, Ross Kethel, Anthony Tesoro, Steve Livingstone, Michael Galluzzo, James Stubbs-Mills, Allan Picken, Steve Karavatakis, Sam La Rocca, Jeremy Brown, Derek Pomer (Ryan Jones 74)

BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES: Fernando Greco, Sasha Ujesenovic, Bobby Dragas, Shane Knight, Vuko Tomasevic, David Harding (Christopher Bradley 66), Devrim Huseyin, Johnny Ghiso (Peter Okiamovski 74), Robert Gomez, Michael Hawrysiuk (Jimmy Aschner 55), John Kyriazopoulos

Cautions: Ross Kethel 57 (LT), Sam La Rocca 59 (LT), Bobby Dragas 64 (BWE)

Referee: Greg Leverton

Assistants: Neil Smith and David Finlay

Fourth Official: Michael Collins

NSW Premier League

Belconnen BD 3 Sutherland Sharks 2

By Gary Vandeburgt

The Belconnen Blue Devils repelled an early Shark attack to record a solid 3-2 victory over Sutherland on a wet and slippery West Belconnen Sports Ground on Saturday night.

After an even and uneventful opening, the match came to life when Sutherland opened the scoring in the 21st minute. A neat exchange of passes saw Dean Heffernan burst into the box and with only the 'keeper to beat he scored to give the Sharks a 1-0 lead.

In the 28th minute the Blue Devils equalised, Daniel Camara's shot rocketed off the crossbar and the ball rebounded to Toplica Popovich. His diving header looped over the 'keeper to Michael Katz who tapped the ball in from the goal line to make it 1-1.

As the weather deteriorated after the break so did Sutherland's chances of victory as the Blue Devils began to dominate. After creating several

golden chances to score the home side finally capitalised in the 67th minute.

A penetrating run out of defence by the Blue Devils Adrian Dowling had the Sharks on the back foot. He passed to Katz in the left corner, his cross found Daniel Macor at the far post to easily head home and make it 2-1.

Three minutes later Macor's excellent vision and switch of play from the left to right found David Arranz in open space. He raced toward the penalty area, turned a defender and slammed his shot into the bottom left hand corner of the net to have the home side cruising at 3-1.

A minute later the Blue Devils were again under pressure after substitute Marko Perinovic had a brain explosion when he reached out and handled the ball in the penalty area. Colin McAusland easily converted the penalty to give the Sharks an outside chance of securing a draw.

After playing in the difficult and wet conditions both sides tired and the Blue Devils held on for a 3-2 victory, that sees them cement their spot in the Top 5, while Sutherland slip to the foot of the table.

Belconnen 3 (Katz 28, Macor 67, Arranz 70)

Sutherland 2 (Heffernan 21, McAusland 71 pen)

BELCONNEN BLUE DEVILS: McKenna, Popovich, Zwangobani, Lyons, Katz, Macor (Milin 86), Arranz (Cachia 79), Mauro, Dowling, Kemp, D Camara (Perinovic 57)

SUTHERLAND SHARKS: Olla, Stajcic, Short, Heffernan, A Pfrengle (M Pfrengle 36), Cklamovski, Karanasos (M Musumeci 86), Miller, McAusland, Josevski, Petrovski (Mancia 76)

Cautions: Karanasos 24, Stajcic 87, Arranz 16, Cachia 87

Referee: Chris Blain

Assistant Referees: Ned Sparks and Niraj Lal

4th Official: Nikolas Schlie



David Arranz scored Belconnen's third goal of the night to cement their spot in the Top Five.

Fairfield Bulls 2 Bankstown City 3

By Greg Stock

Bankstown City continued their march towards the Premier League Top Five with two late goals to steal the points from Fairfield Bulls last Saturday night.

On a heavy track which was soaked by a freak storm minutes before kick-off, the Lions staged a late rally in the final ten minutes to take all three points from under the noses of the home side.

With just six minutes to go and leading 2-1, most of the Lions fans were making the move towards the exit. But they were stopped in their tracks, when Colin Luff beat Tom Maric to a Steve Dimitrievski long ball and made no mistake with his shot.

With the Lions fans still on their feet applauding the Luff equaliser, Freddy Umlil raced forward from the kick off and knocked in a beautiful cross for Darren Iocca to finish with a clinical drive. It was a climactic finale to a game that was never short on inspiring moments and one, which the Bulls could well regret later in the season.

While the Lions did take the points the match could have gone either way with both sides having a

number of chances to settle the issue. The Bulls started the better of the two sides and were 1-0 up after 20 minutes when Marc Hoenselaars found space in the penalty box after a great individual run from Paul Richardson. Luff squared the game up in the 40th minute when he sent Mikuletic the wrong way from the penalty spot after Stewart Van Bentum had bought down Umlil in the box.

When Jason Connolly bobbed up 13 minutes from time, to put away a header in a congested penalty box, the momentum was definitely with the home side. But some poor marking and some tired legs definitely cost the Bulls as Bankstown rode right over the top of them in the final ten minutes.

Special mention must be made of midfielder Freddy Umlil. The former Newcastle Breakers midfielder was the man of the match and his tireless contribution in the centre of the park was absolutely outstanding.

Fairfield Bulls 2 (Hoenselaars 20 Connolly 77)

Bankstown City Lions 3 (Luff 40pen 84 Iocca 85)

FAIRFIELD BULLS: Frank Mikuletic, Adam Snyder (Paul Bourke 68), Mathew Dhm, Paul Richardson, Marc Hoenselaars, Mathew Borg, Tom Maric, Nick Bosevski, Andy Ravello, Jason Connolly, Stewart Van Bentum (Richard Harrison 46)

BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS: Zlatko Josevski, Damien Lukic, Bryan Raeburn, Richard Lukic, Adam Mammoliti (Anthony Kanaan 83), Dong Ki-Kim, Robert Angievski (Leo Carle 46), Freddy Umlil, Goca Trposki (Darren Iocca 39), Steve Dimitrievski, Colin Luff

Cautions: Van Bentum (fb) 40 R. Lukic (bcl) 55 Maric (fb) 58 Harrison (fb) 68 Raeburn (bcl) 88

Referee: Boyd McGregor

Assistant Referees: Les Spagnol and Ken Sharp

Fourth Official: Wayne Crabb



Man of the Match, Bankstown's Freddy Umlil.

Parramatta Eagles 1 Blacktown City 2

By Ray Sandell

This was not a match for the soccer purists. It was a hard, sometimes brutal local derby with both teams all out to win, sometimes by any means possible.

Parramatta trying to take advantage of Bonnyrigg's loss earlier in the day and move clear at the top of the table, and Blacktown trying to end their run of seven games without a win and get back up with the leaders. In the end raw brawn rather than skill won the match.

The first ten minutes was like a prize fight, both teams feeling one another out but neither really trying to get the better of the other. Darral Cummins tried a 25 metre speculator after eight minutes but Demons keeper John Crawley was on hand to easily handle the attempt.

The Eagles then started to get more into the Blacktown half and a period of silly, needless fouls by the Demons defence saw the pressure maintained. Parramatta earned a corner and Glenn Sprod's cross into the penalty area was met by an Anthony Mitiga

header that was kicked off the goal line by a quick thinking Peter Sermanni with his goalkeeper well beaten.

At the 34th minute mark Blacktown were awarded a penalty when Mark Reveley brought down Naoki Imaya with a crude tackle and Paul Dee coolly beat Jason Holmes with a well taken kick.

Five minutes later up the other end a clearance by the Eagles defence found Jim Bakis in the Demons penalty area he appeared to handle the ball but at the same time was tackled by a Blacktown defender and both fell to the ground.

Referee Simon Przydacz immediately blew his whistle, what would he give? After what seemed an eternity and after speaking to a number of players he handed the ball to Demons keeper John Crawley for a free kick, obviously for hand ball.

The second half literally erupted straight from the kick off. Within thirty seconds Sprod had the ball in the Demons net for the equalizer and one minute later Blacktown were back in front again with a goal by David Reid. That was more like it, a bit of real football!

But the excitement was not to continue. The game returned to the first half recipe of poor passing, bad tackles, stop them at any cost attitude and if you got in the opposition's penalty area expect to be brought down. Funnily enough there were very few cautions and none of the players really got upset at what was going on.

It appeared if everybody was enjoying it! Nobody really looked like adding to the score and just when we were about to accept that that was the end of

the action the game again erupted in the last minute. Reveley made a late, crude tackle on an opponent and was awarded a second yellow card and sent off.

Mirko

Jurilj

appeared to

tell the referee

what he thought

of the decision

and was cautioned.

It appeared

the referee

asked him

to turn

round to

see his shirt

number

and as he

did so he

appeared to

bend down

and show

his back

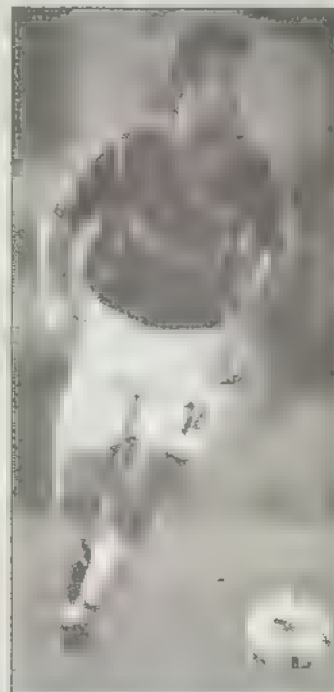
side to the

referee. He

followed

Reveley off

the field!



David Reid: Blacktown's match winner.

Parramatta Eagles 1 (Sprod 46m)
Blacktown City Demons 2 (Dee 34m pen, Reid 47m)

PARRAMATTA: Holmes, Meilak (Dwyer), Reveley, Jurilj, Kukucka (Mondello), Bakis (Mittiga), Sprod, O'Grady, Delicata, Howarth, Cummins

BLACKTOWN: Crawley, Hokin, Foxe, Sermanni, Willard, Dee (Riches), Smith (Nikas), Rastall, Imaya (Hagger), Donev, Reid

Cautions: Parramatta: Reveley, Jurilj, Cummins

Blacktown: Rastall

Send Offs: Parramatta: Reveley, Jurilj

Referee: Simon Przydacz

Assistant Referees: Michael Johnson, Andrew Kay

Fourth Official: Mark Hester



NSW Premier League



GOALKEEPER FOCUS

Why is one the loneliest number?

By Claire Killeen

FLASH back to the days when you were a youngster, maybe about eight, nine or ten and you played in the local soccer side.

Every Saturday morning you would arrive at the ground with your soccer boots anticipating what this game could hold and how well you could play.

But it looks like things are not going to work out just as you had planned and even dreamed the night before — the bomb has been dropped. Today is your turn to be the goalkeeper, the last line of defence and 90 minutes of standing in an airy goal.

Hmmm...you look at your coach with a 'you've got to be kidding' look but he is adamant and you sink into the realisation that today you will be the protector of your side's credibility.

You are the fine line between success and failure, you must dive, jump and stretch to avoid the ball entering your precious space and well, if you don't there is NO abort button.

But alas today you're lucky.

You spend almost the whole game sitting to right of the box playing, the dirt a more interesting option as the closest the ball that has come near you was when the two sides ran out...well

at least you kept a clean sheet!

In a game as fickle as soccer where seconds of madness or brilliance can change the whole demeanour of a game, how can it be that men choose to be the side's goalkeeper?

With the number one on your back comes the ability to play hero or villain, to deal with pressure situations and immense boredom — to become almost spectator like or to be the most active member on the field.

Yet in the New South Wales Premier League every weekend, 12 men choose this existence and love every minute of it when they are wearing the number one.

"You don't have to be mad but it helps" — Anonymous

Goalkeeping is such a specialised position and one that not anyone can fill adequately. John Crawley of the Blacktown City Demons feels it was a position he was born into.

"I've been a goalkeeper all my life...I was born into the position and being a goalkeeper comes with expectations...it goes with the territory."

Expectations on a goalkeeper are

high. Most fans would have their goalkeeper keep a clean sheet every game yet this is not always possible as Chad Taylor (Penrith Panthers) acknowledges.

"There are times when you do all you can and you get beaten...you try all you can but it's just not enough," the 19-year-old stated.

Indeed, some days it's tough being number one. The weight of expectations can be so heavy on the slim shoulders of one man. Even though the game of soccer is a team sport, fans will berate the goalkeeper for letting a goal in.

Sutherland Sharks' goalkeeper, Mitchell Blowes is one who accepts the responsibility yet finds that conceding a goal is hard to take though it is expected.

"I do take it personally, there's always something that you question yourself about," the Commerce student states.

Taylor though takes a slightly more aggressive approach.

"I always aim to keep out all the goals and I get fired up saying that no one is going to score...you have to be arrogant to be a goalkeeper, you can't



Bankstown City Lions' Zlatko Josevski

worry about anyone else so you have to be very confident plus I like to get in people's faces."

Pressure comes with the territory and most goalkeepers thrive on the challenges that come with goalkeeping.

Fernando Greco of the successful Bonnyrigg White Eagles doesn't feel pressure as such.

"There's not a lot of pressure even though they [fans/officials] expect you to win."

"I've been lucky to play in four grand finals in a row, three with Blacktown and one with Bonnyrigg," Greco states.

Perhaps the reason for Greco's approach to being a goalkeeper is his ability to back himself — after winning four grand finals it's hard not to believe in yourself.

"I just prepare for the game the same way, no matter who we are playing and this gives me confidence," says Greco.

Blowes agrees with Greco's approach and follows a similar routine. The 20-year-old finds his preparation begins as soon as the game finishes. When he is walking to the sheds, Blowes analyses the game and looks immediately to next week.

"If I don't put in a good effort at training and if I don't train well or it isn't sufficient enough I know my game

will be down and then the boys start to not have confidence in me."

"Goalkeepers are different" — Anonymous

With the number one on your back comes privileges — the ability to dress in what you like. The most interesting and individual goalkeeper in the league would have to be Jason Holmes of Parramatta Melita Eagles.

Holmes, 27, a butcher, enjoys the attention that comes from his unusual style of dressing.

"I have to dress differently. I like to be different and not boring."

"It spices the game up a little. My wife designs them for me," Holmes said.

His dress sense aside, Holmes takes the game very seriously yet enjoys the task at hand.

"I enjoy pressure. A bit of showmanship is OK. We are all there to entertain."

Indeed goalkeepers are entertainers; they enjoy the limelight and acknowledge the criticism that comes with the number one yet they would not have it any other way!

Thanks to all the NSW Premier League goalkeepers who helped to put this article together.



Spot the odd one out! Outstanding goalkeeper Andrew Crews with his Leichhardt Tigers team-mates.



NSW Premier League



WHEELBOARDED

ROUND 15

PREMIER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

LEICHHARDT TIGERS1 (S Karavatakis 52m)	BONNYRIGG WE0
BLACKTOWN CITY2 (P Dee 34m pen, D Reid 47m)	PARRAMATTA EAGLES1 (G Sprod 46m)
PENRITH PANTHERS0	ST GEORGE SAINTS2 (B Beddoni 20m/39m)
CENTRAL COAST3 (K Freeman 57m/82m, P Haynes 91m)	C'BURY-M'VILLE1 (C Paradis 19m pen)
BELCONNEN3 (M Katz 28m, D Macor 67m, D Arranz 70m)	SUTHERLAND SHARKS ...2 (D Heffernan 21m, C McAusland 71m pen)
FAIRFIELD BULLS2 (M Hoenselaars 20m, J Connolly 77m)	BANKSTOWN CITY3 (C Luff 40m pen/84m, D Iocca 85m)

UNDER 19

PENRITH2	ST GEORGE1
COASTIES2	C'BURY M'VILLE OLYMPIC ..1
FAIRFIELD8	BANKSTOWN CITY1
BELCONNEN4	SUTHERLAND SHARKS ...4
LEICHHARDT0	BONNYRIGG WE0

PARRAMATTA EAGLES V BLACKTOWN CITY: POSTPONED

TABLES

FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Parramatta Eagles	15	10	1	4	41	19	31
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	14	10	1	3	31	14	31
Leichhardt Tigers	15	8	4	3	27	23	28
Belconnen Blue Devils	15	8	2	5	31	24	26
Bankstown City Lions	15	7	4	4	31	28	25
Fairfield Bulls	14	7	3	4	29	28	24
Blacktown City Demons	14	6	4	4	29	21	22
Canterbury Marrickville	15	5	3	7	21	27	18
Central Coast Coasties	14	4	3	7	16	24	15
Penrith Panthers	15	1	7	7	16	24	10
St George Saints	15	2	3	10	15	35	9
Sutherland Sharks	15	1	3	11	15	35	6

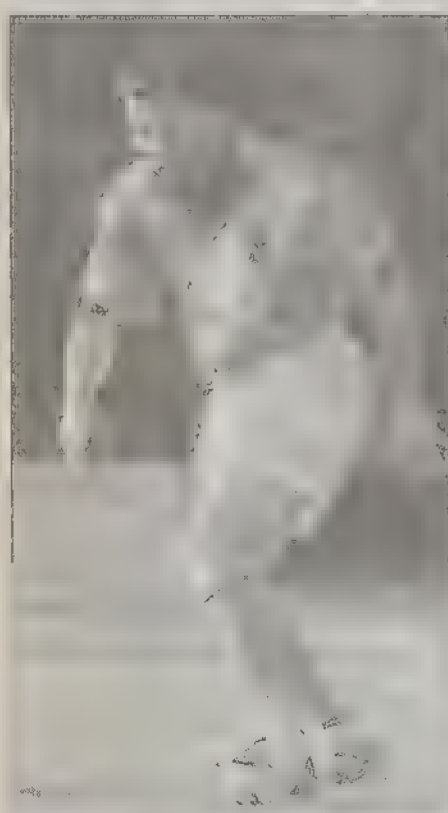
UNDER 19

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Central Coast Coasties	14	11	1	2	41	9	34
Parramatta Eagles	14	8	3	3	25	18	27
Leichhardt Tigers	13	8	2	3	26	11	26
Blacktown City Demons	13	8	1	4	30	17	25
Fairfield Bulls	13	7	3	3	31	19	24
Belconnen Blue Devils	15	6	4	5	38	33	22
Penrith Panthers	14	5	4	5	20	18	19
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	14	5	2	7	20	27	17
Canterbury Marrickville	15	4	4	7	17	25	16
St George Saints	15	3	4	8	13	31	13
Sutherland Sharks	15	2	2	11	23	48	8
Bankstown City Lions	15	2	2	11	11	39	8

TOP SCORERS

- 13 Daniel Macor (BELCONNEN BLUE DEVILS)
 12 Jimmy Aschner (BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES)
 11 Jim Bakis (PARRAMATTA EAGLES)

Bankstown & Belconnen in Action



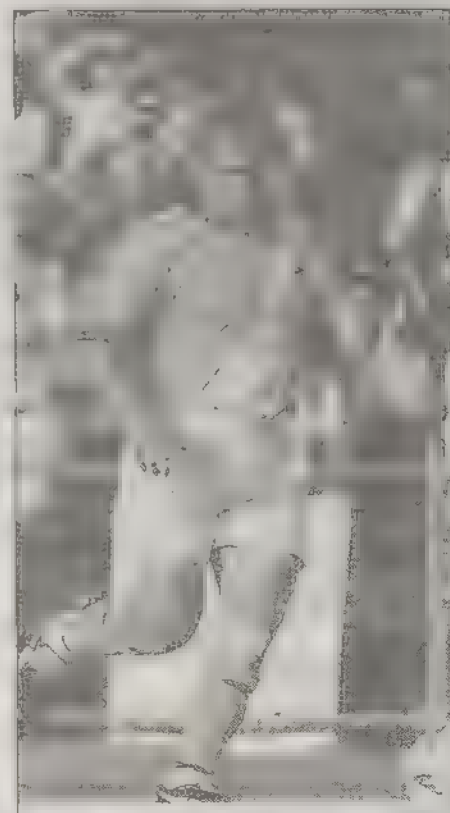
Daniel Macor



Richard Luksic



Dong-Ki Kim



Matt Cachia

NSW Premier League

NSW SAPPHIRES MARCH INTO WOMEN'S NSL GRAND FINAL

NSW SAPPHIRES 2
(Catherine Cannuli 4m 38m)
CANBERRA ECLIPSE 1
(Gill Thomson 55m)
AT TOYOTA PARK, SYDNEY

The undefeated NSW Sapphires were down a goal to a Canberra Eclipse before Sapphires' striker Catherine Cannuli came off the bench and posted two late goals for the 2-1 win at Toyota Park, a doubleheader with NSL outfit Olympic Sharks.

Eclipse conceded late goals for the second week in a row to drop valuable points.

Canberra was the sharper in the first half, attacking freely up both flanks and backed up by an organised defence. The half-time scoreboard however showed no goals. The excitement certainly picked up in the second half in a fairly even battle before Sapphires lifted in the final twenty minutes.

Ten minutes after the break, Canberra's Gill Thomson finished a neat build-up, scoring from just outside the 18-yard box. As tensions grew, so did the physical side of the game from both sides. Seven minutes after taking the

field, Cannuli produced the equaliser.

The substitute chested down a cross from the left, but her first time volley was saved. The rebound fell to Cannuli for her to take the simple chance. Cannuli celebrated the winner four minutes later, heading home a Heather Garriock corner.

This win guarantees the Sapphires a home Grand Final in the Women's National Soccer League for season 2001/2002.

WNSL Grand Final
Parramatta Stadium:
Saturday 9th March 4pm Kick Off
Included in the program for this same event are:
*Official launch of the 2002 Women's State & Super League Competitions
*12 Minute Parade of Clubs
*Official Launch Function after Grand Final (6.30-7.00pm)
*Parramatta Power V Perth Glory 7.30pm
For further information please call Jeff Saul on 0418 662 912.



Sapphires' star striker, Catherine Cannuli.



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GOLSPORT

Bugsy the transfer King

By Richard Kreider

Contrary to our recent report, Perth Glory mid-field ace Brad Maloney has



Brad Maloney: Richest transfer in Australian history.

relegated Ante Milicic to second place on the all-time highest inter NSL club transfer fees.

ABSW's front-page story (5/2/02 edition) reported Milicic was transferred from Sydney United to Olympic Sharks for a "record transfer" \$110,000, while Maloney was believed to have transferred to Perth Glory from Marconi Stallions in 2000, for \$130,000.

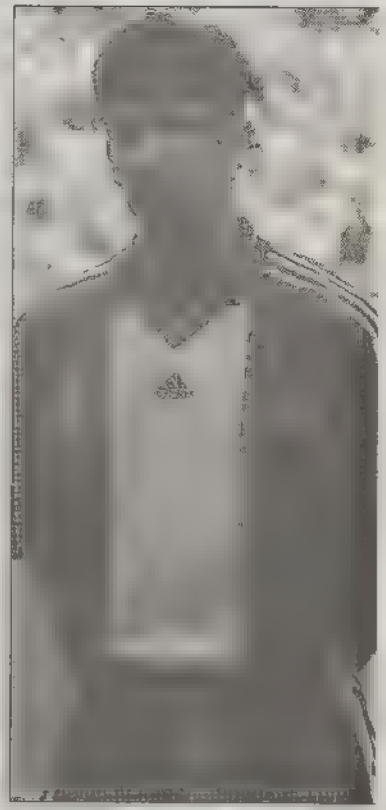


Ante Milicic: Was thought to be the biggest transfer but Ante had to settle for second best.

The transfer amount included the paying out of the remainder of "Bugsy's" contract to the Stallions.

There has not been too many transfers of that amount since many key players moved when they were out of contract and so moved on a free-transfer agreement.

Damian Mori was a recent example when he moved to Perth Glory from Adelaide City Force in 1999.



Ned Zelic: In '91, was the biggest transfer in the National League.

Player	From	To	Year	Amount
Brad Maloney	Marconi	Perth Glory	2000	\$130 000
Ante Milicic	Sydney United Olympic	Sharks	2002	\$110 000
Ned Zelic	Sydney United Olympic	Sharks	1991	\$50,000
Troy Halpin	Newcastle United	Perth Glor	1998	\$40 000
Scott Ollerenshaw	St. George	Olympic Sharks	1989	\$40 000
Tony Krslovic	St George	Sydney United	1990	\$35,000
David Seal	Sydney United	Marconi Stallions	1990	\$35 000
Manis Lamond	Canberra City	Sydney United	1986	\$32,000

All figures are in dollars, and to be exact.

Premier League clubs converge on Ibrox as Vidmar prepares for Emerton

Brett Emerton is expecting a plethora of attention as representatives from Newcastle, Leeds and Liverpool converge on Ibrox to see his Feyenoord team take on Rangers.

The European contest is a chance for Premier League Clubs to see how Emerton copes with British opposition and he is expected to line-up at left back in direct opposi-

tion to his Aussie teammate Tony Vidmar of Rangers.

On Emerton, Vidmar said: "I know he doesn't like playing full-back but in that position he covers a lot of territory. He'll push forward at every chance...All round he is a very good player. He is technically good, quick and puts in a good cross."



Brett Emerton: Sparking interest from Newcastle, Leeds and Liverpool will be showing at Ibrox.

Ex 'Gong boys set to link up at Wolves

Paul Reid is set to join Les Pogliacomi for trials at Wolverhampton after his proposed move to Bolton was called off.

Bolton boss Sam Allardyce decided to negate talks with Wollongong over Reid's proposed £275 000 transfer after he signed Dane Stig Tofting.

Now, Reid will join his former Wolves teammate at Molineux for tests under the eye of manager Dave Jones.



After falling out at Bolton Paul Reid is set to trial at Wolves.

Horvart bored with NSL style

Melbourne Knights defender Steve Horvart has branded the style of football played by the large number of National League clubs as "boring".

He told the Herald-Sun: "I don't know what's going on in this league anymore. No one wants to play any more. They just want to play the counter-attacking game."

"We're one of the few teams willing to play an open game. South Melbourne and Olympic

Sharks are probably the only others who want to play"

Ahead of this weeks big clash against Perth Glory in Tasmania, Horvart also included the table leaders in his blast: "Perth are among those who try to play the counter...Obviously they've got better finishers and they're doing it well because they've been playing for a while."

"But we can beat them We showed that in last season's finals



Steve Horvat has labelled NSL Soccer "boring".

LIONS DEVOUR BERGERS



By Bert van Bedaf

There was despair everywhere in the Heidelberg United camp as the defending champion was trounced 4-1 by visiting Preston Lions at Olympic Village last Sunday. It was their second, big defeat in two weeks.

Heidelberg 'keeper Sam Frangos, signed in a swap with Jimmy Kourtis from Bentleigh Greens, had such a disastrous game that Berger coach Peter Ollerton replaced him near the hour with newcomer Robert Acs, a pre-season signing from relegated side Essendon Royals.

Whenever Heidelberg and Preston clash, their former NSL competitiveness fingers on and off the pitch. Although both are long since in the Victorian Premier League, the mood hasn't changed. Flares were lit by both supporter groups and the vocal 1,100-strong crowd provided a derby-like atmosphere.

Since both sides had started the season with a loss, pride and vital points were at stake. Preston went down 2-1 to Altona East, while Altona Magic trounced Heidelberg 5-1.

But on Sunday the Lions had clearly re-discovered their roar,

while the Bergers were well and truly done. They have now conceded nine goals in two matches, while last season the title holder conceded 19 goals in 22 games.

"We played the same system (4-4-2) as last week and the boys proved they are capable of doing it. They played well and they deserved the win," Preston coach Doug Hodgson said.

"We had a bit of luck, the (Heidelberg) 'keeper made a few mistakes, but, saying that we did what we set out to do. We pressured them and that's when the mistakes came," he said. Ollerton firmly blamed Frangos for the loss.

"Three goals came from mistakes by the keeper. They (Preston) weren't giving us a bath. There were crucial mistakes made. We were a goal in front and they were gone. But they scored a poxy goal from a mistake by the 'keeper and two minutes after that he drops it and again they score (2-1). That just kills you," Ollerton said.

"I wanted to take him (Frangos) off at half time, but I gave him a chance to prove himself. But he missed a cross on the third goal and I took him off. The boy was shattered. There was no point putting him under more slaughter," he said.

Preston showed early aggression, claiming four corners in the opening 20 minutes, while the home-side struggled to come forward. Yet, the Bergers struck the lead on 39 minutes. Eric Vassiliadis had a shot well outside the box and Peter Kakos touched it to hit the net.

The lead lasted only a minute. Newly-signed Berger 'keeper



Fawkner Blues coach Joe Biskic is currently enjoying life at the top of the Victorian Premier League.

Sam Frangos failed to hold on to a cross and forward John Sapazovski took possession and promptly equalised.

Preston sensationally took the lead with a penalty four minutes into time-on.

An on-field brawl erupted in the 32nd minute and referee Senko Restovic ended up booking Heidelberg's Eric Vassiliadis

and Preston Les Anastasiou during the delay.

After Preston had equalised it seemed the game would go level into the break, but Frangos blundered a second time to give the Lions their penalty.

He dropped a through-ball and Kamer Simsek was quick to respond. Frangos held the Preston striker and wrestled him

to the ground. Restovic immediately pointed to the spot, while Frangos was lucky not to get a red card.

Experienced defender Nick Cuculevski stepped up and slotted home his penalty to put the Lions a goal up at the interval.

The Lions went further ahead after another defensive bungle in the 51st minute. The Bergers simply failed to clear and Simsek drilled the ball through the forest of players into the net for 3-1.

The scintillating forward nearly put the Lions another goal up two minutes later as he slid across the pitch to meet a Sapazovski cross. But his touch just went wide of the near post.

Frangos's nightmare ended after 57 minutes when Ollerton replaced him with Acs and the crumbling Berger defence tried to regroup from a calamitous performance.

To their credit, the Bergers mounted a massive attack and only the brilliance of Preston 'keeper Pasi Schwalger stopped the home team from scoring.

Agim Sherifovski and Damien Vojtek fired thunderbolts at the Preston goal in the 72nd and 74th minutes and Schwalger pro-

duced two outstanding saves to deny the Bergers.

Preston rubbed in their victory with another goal in the 82nd minute.

Substitute Dimce Panev, on for Simsek in the 78th minute, was left unmarked in the box. He drilled home the fourth goal with an emphatic shot high into the exposed net, rounding off a full-blooded win.

In other results Whittlesea Stallions held out against top side Green Gully, clinching a scoreless draw.

Port Melbourne got back on track beating Altona Magic 2-1. Fitzroy City did well drawing 1-1 with Bulleen, while Bentleigh Greens scored a 1-0 win away to Altona East.

In round three, Port Melbourne hosts Heidelberg on Friday. Whittlesea

Stallions travel to Altona Magic on Saturday. On Sunday, Green Gully is at home to Fitzroy, Bentleigh Greens hosts Preston and Fawkner welcomes Altona East. Bulleen will put St Albans to the test at the Veneto ground on Monday.

Bingley Scores His Own Goal

By Panos Tagaroulas



Matthew Bingley: Newcastle United captain recently proposed to Christina Pappas; Do we hear wedding bells.

Captain courageous Matthew Bingley became engaged to marketing wiz Christina Pappas following Newcastle United's victory.

Christina has put a promising career on hold to ensure Matt has an ally while fulfilling his roles as a player and captain of the United franchise.

Christina and Matt are active participants at official United functions.

The guests at the engagement succumbed to the host and hostesses charms, as guests were treated to some traditional Southern Mediterranean dancing with a distinctly Oz flavor.

Victorian Premier League 2002

ROUND 2

FRIDAY 15 FEBRUARY

Whittlesea Stallions . . . 0 Green Gully Cavaliers . . 0

SATURDAY 16 FEBRUARY

Port Melbourne Sharks .2 Altona Magic1
(Peter Psarros 2) (Doug Mladenovic)

SUNDAY 17 FEBRUARY

Fitzroy City1 Bulleen Zebras1
(Bojan Jevjedovic) (Anthony Magnacca)

St. Albans Saints 0 Fawkner Blues2
(own goal, Joe Vas)

Heidelberg United 1 Preston Lions4
(Peter Kakos) (Kamer Simsek, John Sapazovski, Nick Cuculevski, Dimce Panev)

Altona East Phoenix . . . 0 Bentleigh Greens . . . 1
(Juan Nilo)

Under-21s

FRIDAY 15 FEBRUARY

Whittlesea Stallions . . . 0 Green Gully Cavaliers . . 0

SATURDAY 16 FEBRUARY

Port Melbourne Sharks .3 Altona Magic3

SUNDAY 17 FEBRUARY

Fitzroy City1 Bulleen Zebras3

St. Albans Saints 2 Fawkner Blues1
Heidelberg United 1 Preston Lions1
Altona East Phoenix . . . 2 Bentleigh Greens 2

Senior Ladder

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fawkner Blues	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Bentleigh Greens	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Whittlesea Stallions	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Green Gully Cavaliers	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Altona Magic	2	1	0	1	6	3	3
Preston Lions	2	1	0	1	5	3	3
Port Melbourne Sharks	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Altona East Phoenix	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Bulleen Zebras	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Fitzroy City	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
St. Albans Saints	2	0	0	2	0	4	0
Heidelberg United	2	0	0	2	2	9	0

Round three fixtures

Friday, 22 February, 8.15pm
Port Melbourne - Heidelberg United
Saturday, 23 February, 7.30pm
Altona Magic - Whittlesea
Sunday, 24 February, 6.00pm
Green Gully - Fitzroy City
Bentleigh Greens - Preston
Fawkner - Altona East
Monday, 25 February, 8.15pm
Bulleen - St Albans

COACHES AGAIN STEP INTO LINE OF FIRE



By Bert van Bedaf

We all know coaching is a thankless job, but someone's got to do it. In the Victorian Premier League twelve generals stepped into the line of fire.

They signed up for the duration of 22 matches, but whether all of them will last the distance is a definite 'No'.

Not a season has gone past without sackings. Coaches get dropped quicker than coconuts in the tropics and the sacking syndrome is more widespread than the common cold. Mind you, coaches are never sacked. They resign. And the club committee always regrets the decision.

Last season was no different. Peter Crocker springs to mind. The then St Albans president Branko Starek said he was "thrilled" with Crocker's appointment.

"The boys like him. They reckon he's a top bloke. Crocker (who was reserves coach the previous season) has influence on them and he per-

forms well under pressure. He deserves to start a season as coach," an elated Starek was quoted on Crocker's appointment.

That was December 2000. By June 2001, Crocker was replaced with Mark Talajic, following a club crisis meeting. "Crocker has resigned and we have to accept his resignation," Starek said.

At Altona Magic the revolving door always works overtime. Last season

Tim Bikicki departed faster than you could say 'resignation', and others were to follow him.

Bikicki ran into then vice president Melissa Fischer-Massa and was flattened before he could say 'surrender'. The formidable Fischer-Massa takes no prisoners in her quest for titles. She eliminates what she perceives as her weakest links and moves on towards her inevitable victory goals. "I want to win," is her credo.

The hapless Essendon Royals agonised over their decapitation, but eventually separation came for coach-of-five-years Michael Giacomi. The Royals had not won a game all season and were left dangling on three points. Assistant coach Dean Hennessey was also fired.

"I am very disappointed, but you move on," Giacomi lamented. "The sacking was-



Ian Dobson: Current Green Gully coach holds the best coaching record in the Premier League.

n't because I didn't have the respect of the players. I just think it was an emotional decision."

Emotions always run high. Dean's father Terry, years ago coach of Brunswick United Juventus, once asked, "What's the script here?" when the Juve knives were being sharpened for a surgical plunge into his exposed back.

At other relegation side Dandenong Thunder, veteran coach Bobby McLachlan lasted only four games. "He's a lovely man, but the coach is always the first to fall down," a matter-of-fact club president Tony Sinani said.

A former coach at VPL and national league levels with Morwell Falcons (later Gippsland Falcons and Eastern Pride), McLachlan has had the last laugh. He was recently appointed Sports Development and Project Officer in the Coaching and Development department of the Victorian Soccer Federation. McLachlan is a survivor.

This season Chris Taylor continues at Altona East. The Phoenix finished fourth last season and won their opening round this season. Taylor also coach at Green Gully and briefly at Altona Magic.

Altona Magic, now with Fischer-Massa as president, is again coached by Gary Cole. He is one of Fischer-Massa's favourite coaches. Cole fol-

lowed Fischer-Massa from Bentleigh Greens, where she ruled the roost last season. Bentleigh Greens appointed Mike Kupinic.

Despite the usual committee upheavals, Joe Mullen has retained his coaching job at Bulleen. But do not underestimate the Zebras. The leafy Veneto surroundings resemble a graveyard for coaches. In recent times, Michael Urukalo, Bogdan Bonk and Cole among others, have been asked to do the Christian thing and kneel before the lions.

After many seasons Ken Murphy retired from Fawkner. The Blues appointed midfielder Josip Biskic as coach. That he may last distance.

At newcomer Fitzroy City Dragan Blazeski has taken over from Dusan Kalezic, who felt bitter about his forced departure after guiding the Roys through the lower divisions.

Green Gully has retained

Ian Dobson and no wonder. Dobson still holds the record as best coach in the premier league. Not only because he's won titles with the Cavaliers and Altona Magic, but also because he won a national championship with the Melbourne Knights. His finals record is formidable. He has never been sacked.

Not far behind him is Peter Ollerton, who has steered Preston to a VPL title and Heidelberg last season. He

resigned from Preston and Altona East. The Warriors have managed to keep him. Harry Chalkitis has stayed with last season minor premier and losing grand finalist Port Melbourne. One of the most likeable coaches in the league, Chalkitis suffered Fischer-Massa's wrath at Bentleigh. Fortunately, he's found a new home with the Sharks.

It will be his as long he produces results for the killer Sharks, still smarting from losing last season's grand final to the Bergers.

Preston lost Vlado Vanis, who saved the Lions from relegation last season. In his place has come Doug Hodgson, who comes from an English tradition where the pride of shirt, the thrill victory and the title are the only trophies that matter.

After last week's 2-1 loss to Altona East, Hodgson called his players for an immediate training run after the game. "This was a bad start to the season for us. It was very disappointing. They embarrassed the coach, so I embarrassed them,"

Hodgson said. The Lions are in for a tough ride. Hodgson might possibly be the first coach to resign.

The St Albans Saints have appointed Croatian international Zlatko Vego in the hope they can revive some of their former feared form.

Unfortunately, they will remain Saints and will lack grunt.

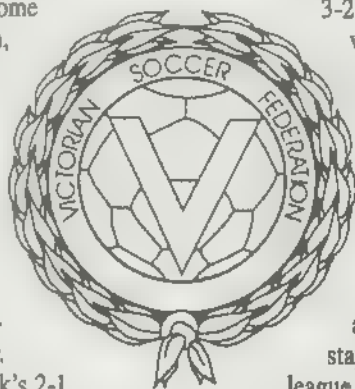
If there's a team that deserves watching, it is the Whittlesea Stallions. Phil Stubbins has coached them from State Leagues divisions two and one into the premier league and he's riding a wave

after their rousing, 3-2 opening

victory against Bulleen and a 0-0 draw with Green Gully.

"Our first aim is to stay in the league. Anything above that is a bonus," Stubbins said.

Truer words have rarely been spoken. Staying coach in the premier league is also a bonus. Many have gone before where few still dare to tread.



Bobby McLachlan: Former Dandenong Thunder coach now Sports Development Project Officer in coaching and development for the Victorian Soccer Federation.



Josip Biskic: Former Melbourne Knights star now current Fawkner Blues coach.

New Look ACT Premiership

By Graham Cooke

This season's ACT Premiership will consist of a two-round, 14-game regular competition, with an extended end-of-series season involving all eight clubs.

The compromise, suggested by the senior league management committee, was thrashed out at a meeting of clubs last week as the best answer to the crisis caused by University of Canberra's departure from the premiership.

The league had already played a season one under its normal strength of 10, and the latest defection had led one prominent coach to speculate that the ACT's main competition was heading for extinction.

Senior League chairman Walter Valeri said the other options of having a 14-game competition with play-offs or a 21-game, three-round series without play-offs, had both been rejected.

"Under the proposal adopted every club will get at least 17 games, rising to 20 if you count the Federation Cup," he said. "If they are very successful and reach the finals of all

competitions, they will play 26

"The clubs will play two rounds totaling 14 games, then they split into two groups with the first, fourth, fifth and eighth teams in one group and the rest in the other. They will play each other once and the top two in each group will go forward to semi finals and a grand final.



Walter Valeri: Senior League Chairman for ACT Soccer.

"It means that everyone is in with a chance of winning something in the play-offs, and maintains the interest of the smaller clubs for longer."

A total of 18 teams has entered the Federation Cup - the largest number for several years - although premiership club Weston Creek Royals have decided to sit out the predominantly pre-season competition.

As a result of the additional interest, there will be a preliminary knockout round, involving four clubs, so that the competition can proceed with 16 teams in four groups.

The preliminary round will be played on February 24 and will involve Queanbeyan City v ANU (State League 3) and Burns Club (SL2) v Canberra Olympic (SL1).

Others teams to enter are: Gungahlin Juventus, Capital City Suns, Tuggeranong United, Belconnen United, Canberra Deakin, Canberra Olympic, Moaroo, University of Canberra, ANU (SL1), Cooma, O'Connor Knights, Canberra City, Southern Tablelands, Burns Club (SL1). The draw for the groups will be made later, with matches beginning on March 3. The ACT Premiership will kick off on April 7.

Pre Season Starts For The Capital City Suns

By Graham Cooke

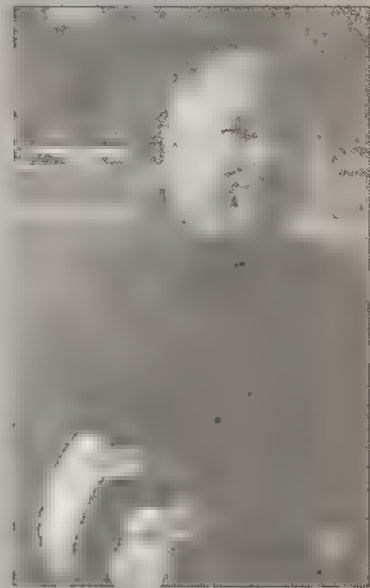
Capital City Suns gave their pre-season workout a thorough test last Saturday, as they entertained NSW's Rockdale City Suns.

Rockdale Suns, one of the top sides in the NSW winter competition, was a top side for a pre-season match as the Sydney sides are expected to mount a serious challenge to winning their respective league championships this season.

Capital City Suns, who finished in twelfth place last season, were in a friendly match against Rockdale on Saturday, December 15th, at Rockdale's home ground.

Capital City Suns coach Bill Dojcinowski said his team did well against the more experienced Rockdale side in Sydney. "We can do better than that," he predicted.

"We have kept the six best players from last year's squad and added some very experienced players. I think we have the pre-season to really shake this season



Bill Dojcinowski: Coach of the Capital City Suns.

Wollongong News

By Otto Bader

The Wolves are still confident in reaching the top six, despite being 5 points adrift of 6th placed Northern Spirit.

The Wolves gained a valuable point against a re-emerging KINGZ who at present form look very dangerous. The Wolves are in 9th spot with 7 games to go and must start winning games to climb up the points table and win the reluctant fans over, now more than ever the team needs solid support at WIN Stadium.

Young Wolves connect With Locals - Youth Development Officer Eddie Tesoro invited recently DAPTO Soccer club juniors from U/10's, U/11's, U/12's and U/13's for two training sessions with the Wolves Youth Grade at Brandon Park.

Contacts will be made in due time with other local junior soccer clubs or if any information about times and dates for sessions is required please phone Eddie Tesoro at he Wolves office 42 26 39 88. Last year combined sessions were run with 10 local junior clubs, invited to Brandon Park. Alongside these activities, the Wolves Youth Grade coach is doing the tour around Illawarra Schools to arrange soccer coaching sessions, taking with him first graders. His initiative should be applauded included in a year-long heavy schedule to promote soccer, sell the club's Development Programme and plan the right way to success.

For U/15's and U/16's a training camp (3 days) is booked with the Academy of Sports, NSW Government Fitness Centre Narrabeen Intensive coaching will sharpen the skill of the participants, a challenge at the same time to show the youngster's attitude, dedication and discipline towards the

demand of top soccer. Fee is \$100.-(hundred) for 3 days accommodation and meals included, the programme runs from 7.30 AM breakfast, 8.30 AM training, 12 noon lunch, 1 PM to 4 PM coaching sessions, followed by video demonstrations

Monthly Meetings - at Soccer Australia with NSL club youth development officers involving the NSW Soccer Federation have been kicked-off on a proposal by the Wolves coach. The first meeting this month was a success and it is intended to rotate monthly gatherings - a sort of THINK TANK is intended including improved communications among all soccer clubs.

Corrimal Leagues Club Knock-out - now in it's 40th year being sponsored by the Leagues club - surely is a unique long living soccer fixture - Games at Tarrawanna Oval went ahead with following results = Port Kembla 4 Warilla Wanderers 1, the Premier League club too strong for the first division side, Port's goals from Mineo Bonetig (2), Nick Polimenakos and Viberti Abuga (new signing). Tarrawanna 5 Aborigines 0, great to see a team taking the step up to contest the annual knock-out from the Aboriginal soccer community.

Corrimal Rangers (Amateurs) 0 Highlands United 0 (First Division).

Lysaght (Premier League) 0 Helensburgh 1 - a real upset by the first division team.

Scheduled matches at Towradgi, Bellambi and Memorial Park are being played now on Saturday followed on Sunday by round 2 of the knock-out.

Soccer Illawarra - a special General Meeting has been called by the Board for Tuesday

12th March 7.30 PM at the Fraternity Club to resolve the appeal by Albion Park White Eagles. All 28 clubs are required to attend.

Youth Grade Knock-out - sponsored also - by the Corrimal Leagues club has been put back one week to Wednesday 20th and Friday 22nd due to wet ground conditions. On each night 4 games of 20 minutes halves will be played kick-off 5.45 PM - 6.40 PM 7.35 and 8.30 PM. The venue is Ray Robinson Park, Towradgi Prize money of \$1000.- is on offer - 1st \$500.-, 2nd \$250.-, 3rd \$150.- and 4th placed \$100.-. The youth knock-out is initiated by the Fernhill Soccer Club.

Albion Park White Eagles - still trying to sort out the club's direction, as coaching arrangements have changed according to spokesman Frank Zammit. Following the sudden resignation of David Skeen, Steve Micevski has taken over as caretaker coach to supervise weekly training on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The club has re-signed outstanding sweeper David Petrovic and expects most of last year's first grade squad to stay on. The main field at Terry Reserve Albion Park looks great with two loyal club members working hard in maintaining a top class playing surface. Players interested to join the club are invited to contact Frank Zammit on 42 56 18 58. At present applicants as head coach are being interviewed.

Scholarship System Kick-off - Andy Campbell, President of Shellharbour City Soccer Club, offers young players from 15 to 20 years a soccer apprenticeship. It's goal is to sign up 16 youngsters on a \$200.- incentive scheme, conditional on attending training, playing in youth grade or senior grades, showing good attitude and representing the club well, on and off the field. See Andy on Tuesday or

Thursday training at Keith Bond Oval or phone him for details on 0412 501 909 - for proper guidance head coach Barney King and professional sports trainer Alan Maidman are at hand.

Junior Soccer - Koonawarra Junior Soccer Club will be playing junior soccer, a proper Committee has been elected and welcomes past and new youngsters. Further enquiries for the time being please direct to Administration Office of the Illawarra Junior Soccer Association between 12 noon and 2 PM Mrs Joan Hudson on 42 855 777 or fax 42 83 34 13 or the Juniors Registrar Jim Nolan on 42 56 34 39.

Referee Quiz - try your expertise to find the right solution = No nets are up what should be done? A) abandon the game? B) only start when nets are up, play short halves for the game? C) commence the game but ask the ground marshal for his help? That are some of any tricky situations a soccer referee may be faced with.

Can We Sell The Soccer Product? - fans are not attending soccer matches in numbers as they do with other sports like Rugby League or Australian Rules. The exceptions are international important soccer games which do bring quality sport to Australia.

It seems obvious the soccer hierarchy needs to concentrate on marketing the product of soccer - locally and nation wide. Other codes do that successfully, far better than our soccer top body has done ever. Surely we can learn from the leading football codes, they even would advise on ways to go about it properly. Let's forget internal personality struggles, focus on marketing soccer. At present mainly detrimental news in soccer make the media. There must be a soccer person or persons around able to put aside personal agendas and invigorate on progress in soccer.

On local level in my experience



Happy times around the corner as the Wolves are still a hope for a top six spot.

there are hundreds of club administrators eager, willing, trying every week to have their soccer story accepted by the media, mostly in vain. Out of experience yours truly knows how frustrating it is to attempt often unsuccessful to promote soccer.

Thousands of youngsters - in Illawarra close to 8000 registered juniors - spread the game of soccer making it popular in High and Primary schools.

Our National and State bodies really must come to the party to engage able marketing people - not mates of soccer presidents or chairman as at present Soccer Australia finds itself embroiled in - but professionals as employed by the other leading codes. Please do not leave the promotion to juniors and youngsters only. If necessary buy space in national newspapers, do something in marketing, forget overseas junket trips to attend fruitless conferences or meaningless events.

Never mind the sins of the past, renew our promotion and marketing efforts, achieve progress by perseverance, use contacts and the good-will of known soccer journalists, provide information for them

continuously, our sport relies on their support, make it easy to collect soccer news items.

Never throw in the towel, carry on regardless. If possible bring the different soccer associations together to hear views and opinions, perhaps develop a strategy, work on a structure to aim for an improved acceptance in the media, appeal for business support, try to convince the fans to attend in numbers, make it attractive for them.

Strong efficient leadership, and success on the field will entice the public to support soccer to greater extents.

Admitting it requires work, improvement, effort, all of that together with unity of all soccer agencies - local, state and national body. Divided we fall, more, and more, unified soccer is able to grow towards nation wide recognition with increased attendance.

Soccer supporters hope for directions, positive signals from the top - an appeal to Soccer Australia to show management style thus soccer becoming more prominent in media outlets in general, show us You are serious to remedy neglects.

Denis Fitzgerald: Under the Microscope



ABSW's editor Mark Stavroulakis recently caught up with Parramatta Power Director and Parramatta Eels Chief Executive Denis Fitzgerald. Currently in charge of one of the newest clubs in the National League, Fitzgerald expressed his desire to improve the state of soccer in Australia.

However, his main task is to steer the Power onto bigger and better things and is hopeful with a few changes will do so.

1) With the recent acquisition of Nick Theodorakopoulos at the Power, in your mind, what will Nick bring to the club?

Nick will bring a high degree of professionalism to the Power. His experience with the Wolves having won a championship will be beneficial for the squad next year. Apart from his coaching, Nick will

also bring some new players to the squad who no doubt will make the side a much tougher outfit.

2) What are your aims at the Power for the next two years?

The main aim in the next two seasons is to challenge for a top six spot, but ultimately winning the National League. It's a high standard but we at the Power expect results. Also, we want our youth to keep on improving as they will provide the backbone for future Power players. Finally, incorporating a better income and gaining more sponsors is also something we at Parramatta are looking at improving in the next two years.

3) What must Soccer Australia do in improving the game in Australia, both on and off the field?

Soccer Australia does have a difficult task, but first and foremost they must become financially viable.

SA must market the game to greater lengths as this would of course generate future sponsors. Rationalizing the competition is also a must as there are far too many teams on the brink of bankruptcy.

An idea of taking the game



Denis Fitzgerald: The Power's headman.

to our neighbours Asia would also be a stepping stone for a better future in Australian soccer.

Having a FA-Cup style tournament with our Asian counterparts will bring media attention from across the country and will open up new markets for the game.

The Asians have marketed the game well, they get in terrific crowds, and with their help we too can do the same.

4) What are your views on the youth development at Parramatta Power?

Youth at the Power is very essential and is a key element in producing future stars for the side. At the moment we boast many promising players at the club who have represented Australia.

The youth side currently sits second on the NYL table and will no doubt contest for the big one come end of the year. It's also great to have a top youth coaching scheme that only benefits the youngsters progress, already we've seen a handful of teenagers make their debuts this season for our first grade.

This is an indication of better things to come from our up and coming stars.

5) How have your first years been in the National League?

It's been very tough and disappointing as we have yet to teach a final series. Our on field performance is quite average and that has dwindled our crowd support immensely.

We knew that taking a new club into the National League, would be surfaced with a few problems. I think with the new direction the club is heading too soon, a change might be on the cards.

6) Is the Power conducting any future marketing plans to further their support?

We at the Power boast a top marketing team who always seem to have new ideas in promoting the side. Enticing the crowd is one main aspect in getting the much needed support to the ground.

We are very open minded and are currently working on a few ideas in doing this as the next two years will be the telling ones on whether we continue as a soccer club in the National League.

7) Current coach David Mitchell will leave at the end of the season, what have been your views on 'Mitch' and the rest of the coaching staff?

David Mitchell and the rest of the coaching staff have tried very hard in getting success at the club. David came from

Sydney United full of success boasting a good coaching record.

However, we've not made a finals appearance in the last two seasons and expected bigger things.

8) Can soccer learn from Rugby League in any way to promote the game better?

I think it can, but it is essential that the soccer code ups the ante in the money department. Advertising and marketing the game like the rugby league is one lesson we can learn from them.

Overall, we need to have Soccer Australia strengthen itself, the governing body must be stable in supporting the rest of the National League clubs. I guess the league has tapped into the television and radio rights, something we must think of, gaining prime time viewing is a must.

It all boiled down to the World Cup, unfortunately we missed out and paid a heavy price in losing much-needed sponsors for the game.

9) What are the differences between being in

charge of both rugby league and a soccer club?

Both codes offer different avenues, but overall we have a good management team that juggle both sides well. I guess league is more high profile as crowds are always huge and the side has done quite well in past seasons.

I guess soccer is the new avenue we've taken and at this stage have tried more in promoting the Power.

The Eels have been around for a long time, we have had more experience in the league department, but slowly with new management, success will be evident in the soccer department.

10) Will the proposed player levy help Soccer Australia in anyway?

If Soccer Australia have explored all avenues in rescuing the game, and have come up with that as its only solution, then I'm all for the levy. I guess with only this option, its hard not to support it, however if other ones were to come in place, they'd be heavily considered.



Nick Theodorakopoulos will lead the Power next season as head coach.



David Mitchell: Has found it tough at the Power but high hopes are pinned for a top six finish this year.

Ronaldo returns again in March

Brazilian striker Ronaldo is recovering well from his latest injury and will be back in contention in mid-March, his club Inter Milan announced on Wednesday.

The club allowed Ronaldo to go to Brazil for treatment to a pulled leg muscle — and be guest of honour at the Rio de Janeiro carnival — after he was injured during Inter's Italian league match with Piacenza on December 23.

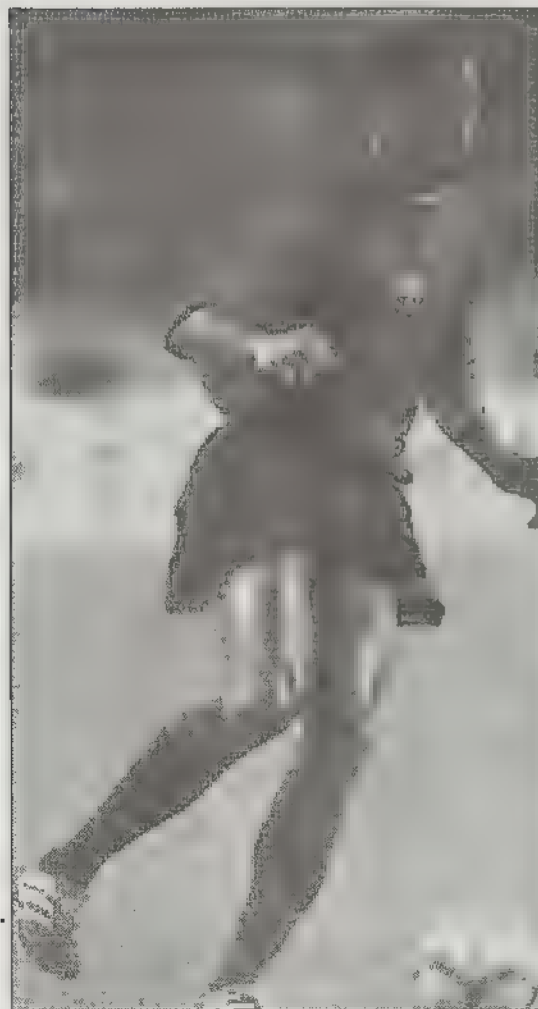
Inter announced that the former World Player of Year's return date had been established after club doctor Franco Combi carried out tests on the player in Rio.

"We have worked out a technical and physical rehabilitation programme and everything is going well," said Combi.



Ronaldo

KLUIVERT SNUBS LIVERPOOL



Patrick Kluivert

Dutch international striker, Patrick Kluivert has said he would not leave Barcelona, despite Liverpool showing interest in him.

The striker said he was told in January of an approach by the Reds and admits that he will want to play in England at some stage of his career.

Kluivert told his personal website: "I don't want to leave Barcelona this season while we are still in the thick of the Champions League and battling for the league title."

"Will I play for Liverpool or any other English club in the future? I believe the answer is yes and the only question that needs to be answered is when."

The 25-year-old joined Barca from AC Milan in 1998 and renewed his contract last summer.

He continued: "My contract ends in 2006, but as everyone knows, it's unusual for players to see out their contracts."

Kluivert added that he was reminded of his fondness for English soccer when he played and scored in Barcelona's 3-1 at Liverpool in a Champions League match in November.

However, Liverpool denied making a bid for the player and insists they have no interest in him.

SPANISH INVITE THRILLS MENDIETA

Lazio's Spanish international Gaizka Mendieta expressed his gratitude to the Spain manager Jose Antonio Camacho as the manager had recalled him for the Spanish national team friendly against Portugal despite the fact that the Lazio midfielder is experiencing a drop in performance.

Mendieta, who has already regretted his move to Italy, claimed that "The call up to the Spanish national team is the most crucial event in my life at the moment."

"The forthcoming friendly will give me an opportunity to show what I'm capable of. Though I'm well aware of the fact that

I must prove my fitness playing with my side," said Mendieta, delighted with the call-up to the Spanish national team for the tie against one of the strongest teams in the world.

The former Valencia midfielder revealed he would like to join Athletic Bilbao. Meanwhile the Basque is conscious that he is unlikely to leave his Italian side imminently. The Basque outfit held negotiations with the Italian club over Mendieta's provisional transfer on loan till the end of this season, but the two sides failed to settle a deal.

BLATTER VOWS TO DEFEAT HAYATOU

Stepp Blatter declared himself confident at being re-elected as president of football's world governing body FIFA in Seoul in May even if he is challenged by African football supremo Issa Hayatou.

"I'm not afraid because it's a question of confidence, not just in myself but in the entire football family, who until now have had every confidence in me," said Blatter.

Hayatou, Cameroon's president of the African Football Confederation (CAF), is believed to be keen on running but must declare his candidacy by March 28.

The FIFA presidential elections take place in Seoul on May 29, just before this summer's World Cup finals kicks off in South Korea.

Blatter confirmed last month he planned to seek re-election, saying he had received more than 100 letters of support from football associations across the world.

Sources close to Blatter said Hayatou had made an agreement with the FIFA president not to stand against him in May but he had been pressured into changing his mind.

Hayatou admitted he had been approached by dozens of football officials from Africa, Europe and Asia asking him to stand against Blatter, though he told AFP in Bamako earlier this week he had yet to make up his mind.

"I haven't answered them yet but anything can happen. I have plenty of time to think about it. But I have not taken a decision."

"Mr Blatter has said he will run for the presidency; I haven't said I will not run against him. Anything can happen."

Hayatou suggested he could expect unanimous support from African members, as well from other confederations if he did enter the running.

ZIDANE'S THE BEST - CARLOS

Real Madrid Brazilian defender Roberto Carlos called Zinedine Zidane a phenomenon and said the Royal club were lucky to sign such a prodigious midfielder.

"The best player in the world plays at the best club in the world," said the left back.

Roberto Carlos said Vicente del Bosque's team are set to emerge as winners in the Spanish championship as well as in the King's Cup and the Champions League on the year of the Madrid side's 100th anniversary.

"It's a tough task and we should try to make it come true step by step," underscored the player.

The Brazilian international

claimed it was high time to defeat Barcelona at their home ground, Nou Camp. Roberto Carlos insisted it would be a tough task as Barca are really strong.

The Brazil defender commented on the capital side's forthcoming tie against Athletic Bilbao on February 17: "It will be tough as we've recently ousted them from the King's Cup semifinals so they are set to take revenge on us."

Meanwhile we should see lest they attain their goal otherwise we might lose our position at the top of the Spanish standings."

The Brazilian star repeated his desire to finish his professional career at Real, as he is happy there.

Roberto Carlos spoke on his country's prospective for the forthcoming World Cup 2002, claiming that despite their lackluster qualifying campaign they still are among the contenders to claim the World Cup.

"It will be another story at the World Cup," said the player.

Speaking on the Spanish national squad he said that they possess a number of consummate players and praised Camacho, who had succeeded in assembling a strong team. Meanwhile they should keep their calm as it is not an easy task to win the World Cup.

When asked whether he would like to meet Barcelona in the Champions League, Carlos answered "no."



Zinedine Zidane

Injury cloud over Beckham

English Premiership champions Manchester United could be without inspirational playmaker David Beckham when they face French counterparts Nantes in next Wednesday's Champions League clash.

The 26-year-old England skipper, who created the goal in Wednesday's 1-1 draw with

Holland, finished the Dutch clash with strapping on his left ankle and he admitted while he wasn't aware of the exact injury he was in agony.

"I got a kick on the same ankle that I had got a kick on the other day (Premiership match with Charlton) — but I also got a heavier kick on the other side," he said.

"I will just have to see how it is in the morning, but it certainly feels bad at the moment. I'll have to go into the club (Manchester United) in the morning and see what they say."

"At this moment I don't know the extent of the damage. But it is really swollen, so I'll just have to wait and see."

US Offer Security for World Cup

The United States has agreed to reinforce security in South Korea during the 2002 World Cup finals to prevent terrorism, a newspaper has reported.

Officials at the South Korean Defence Ministry, the U.S. embassy in Seoul and the U.S. armed forces based in South Korea declined to comment.

But analysts said enhanced

deployment was anticipated given awkward North Korea-U.S. ties after President George W. Bush's State of the Union remarks describing North Korea as part of an 'axis of evil'.

U.S. forces plan to deploy an airborne warning and control system (AWACS) aeroplane and an aircraft carrier during the event, which South Korea and Japan are scheduled to co-host from May 31

to June 30, the JoongAng Ilbo newspaper said, citing a South Korean military official.

"We asked for the United States' military support to guard against the North Korean threat and to prevent large-scale tragedies like the September 11 attacks from happening," it quoted the official as saying.

"The United States promised its full support."

The U.S. soccer team is grouped with South Korea, Portugal and Poland in the World Cup first round and will play those three matches in South Korea.

U.S. forces will also assist in security arrangements during the Asian Games to be held in the city of Pusan in September and October, the newspaper said.

About 37,000 U.S. troops are stationed in South Korea to help safeguard a 1953 armed truce with North Korea that in the absence of a peace treaty has left the two countries technically at war.

"There is nothing strange about U.S. forces taking preventive actions during the World Cup, especially at a time when people are sensitive about terrorism," said Yu Suk-ryul, a senior fellow at the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security.

Earlier in February, South Korean police vowed to make the World Cup the safest in soccer history.

Safety concerns have intensified in South Korea following the September 11 attacks on New York and Washington and the subsequent U.S.-led air strikes on Afghanistan.

Squads of highly trained and heavily armed police, as well as specialist security teams, will be deployed in 10 World Cup stadiums, on 32 practice fields and in 33 accommodation venues in South Korea during the month-long World Cup.

CANNIGIA, MARADONA MEND FENCES

The most famous friendship in soccer looked to have ended in acrimony when Claudio Caniggia missed Diego Maradona's testimonial at Boca Juniors last year.

But Caniggia is hoping to heal the rift by sending Maradona a special gift: the Argentina shirt he wore in the 1-1 draw against Wales in a World Cup warm-up friendly in Cardiff last week, sources close to the Rangers player told Reuters.

Boca midfielder Juan Roman Riquelme, who also played against the Welsh, is taking Caniggia's number seven shirt to Buenos Aires to hand to the former Argentina great who was offended by his friend's no-show in November and has refused to take his phone calls since.

The 35-year-old Caniggia, back in the Argentina fold after an absence of nearly six years, was trying to win an international recall and a place in their World Cup squad for his third finals through his performances with Rangers when Maradona held his testimonial.

He was recovering from injury then and preferred to concentrate on a quick return. His reward was a 49th cap on Wednesday.

Caniggia blossomed as an international under the captaincy of Maradona in the 1987 Copa America in Argentina and they consolidated their partnership in the same competition in Brazil two years later before he burst onto the World Cup stage in Italy in 1990.

The pair made kissing on the lips their trademark celebration after a goal when they played together for Boca in the twilight of Maradona's career five years ago.

They had already forged a strong friendship when they both played for Italian clubs earlier in the decade.

Caniggia for Verona, then Atalanta and AS Roma, Maradona for Napoli.

They helped Argentina, the defending world champions, reach the final of the 1990 World Cup in Rome, Caniggia scoring memorable goals to eliminate Brazil and later hosts Italy.

Their international partnership ended abruptly four years later in Boston after Caniggia scored twice in Argentina's 2-1 victory over Nigeria in the 1994 finals. After the match Maradona failed a drugs test and was kicked out of the tournament.

DYER'S W-CUP HOPES IN TATTERS

Kieron Dyer fears injury may have ended his World Cup dream.

The Newcastle star is sidelined with a broken foot and although he could be back in action in time for the Italy friendly on 27 March, he is worried that it will be too late.

Dyer was in fine form before he damaged his left foot at an FA fitness camp, but insists his club form will count for nothing when it comes to forcing his way into Sven-Goran Eriksson's England World Cup squad.

"When I found out about the latest injury I was totally gutted, devastated in

fact," Dyer told the Newcastle Journal newspaper.

"Things were going really well for me since my return from my shin problem."

"The team were flying and my form was good."

"To hear Tord Grip saying I would definitely have played against the Dutch had I been fit makes it hurt even more."

"To be honest, I think the injury has ruined my chance of making the England squad in the summer."

"There are only two more friendlies before the World Cup — against Italy and Paraguay — and Mr Eriksson has to see me play for England before he can pick me for the finals."

"It doesn't matter how good my club form is, I have to prove I can fit into the England system."

JUVE EYE ARSENAL'S LJUNGBERG

Reports in Italy suggest Serie A giants Juventus are lining up a swoop for Arsenal midfielder Freddie Ljungberg and are prepared to offer Gianluca Zambrotta in exchange.

The Swede has never hidden their admiration for Ljungberg, with Ol-

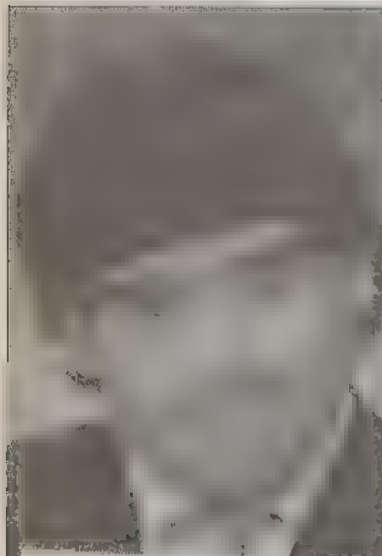
iverio Mancini's praise for the Swede.

Ljungberg is currently out of the Arsenal team through injury but has had a phenomenal impact since arriving at Highbury in September 1999.

It is unlikely that Juventus boss Arsene Wenger would be willing to d-

business although the possibility of Zambrotta heading in the opposite direction may give the Italian manager pause for thought.

Zambrotta is a regular in the Juventus midfield and is also expected to be in the Italian squad that travels to the World Cup finals.

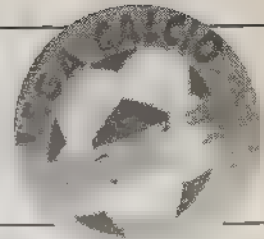


David Beckham



Sven-Goran Eriksson

Diego Maradona



RUSSO WRITES

By Joe Russo

In Catania in Sicily last week Italy played a friendly game against USA. The Azzurri, the team that only recently decided not to play the Soccerroos, struggled to win 1-0. It was the same score when these two teams played each other in the 1990 World Cup in Rome.

An Alessandro Del Piero goal was the saviour for Italy in the second half but the overall performance was certainly nothing glamorous.

In fact, according to reports, it was said that Giovanni Trapattoni certainly let his players have an earful of how he felt. The Trap was certainly in one of the books.

The performance of star player Francesco Totti was certainly below par as was the case of others.

However, he should never read the much-maligned friendly game especially since they were with a Paolo Mancini, Alessandro Nesta, Daniele Albertin, Paolo Inzaghi, Stefano Fiori, Gigi D. Baggio and Marco Delvecchio.

Not all these players were injured some were at because of lack of recent form but it is hard to imagine that they wouldn't be part of Italy's World Cup squad.

Making his debut for Italy was a young defender, Lino midfelder Antonio. A 19-year-old Sicilian and a young striker Massimo Miroglio was also part of the squad. It was the first time ever that a Chievo player has been called up to the Italian national squad.

All of Italy's players, except for Francesco Totti, of Barcelona, also a Sicilian, played in the Serie A. It just goes to show that if you ever leave Italy, your chances of representing your country are greatly reduced. Just ask Vieri, Zola, Lombardi, Ravaglia, Di Canio and company, who have had no experience in the last 5 years or so.

♦♦♦♦♦

It is interesting to see that supporters of Lazio, or at least certain supporters, went to the team's training ground and protested.

Their gripe? Lazio's recent poor performance. Their scapegoat? The coach Alberto Zuccheri. The real reason for their protest, one suspects, is that it is a long time with the good recent form. The fans want to see a team rather than a team that is not.

The passion between these two sides is not just a hobby but a religion. It is a religion that is not just a hobby but a religion.

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BRESCIA 0 AS ROMA 0

Roma, playing without rested playmaker Francesco Totti, struggled to impose themselves against a Brescia side who should have taken the lead early in the second half when substitute Fabrizio Caracciolo missed an open goal.

Brescia thought they had gained a famous victory at the end but Luca Toni's goal was controversially ruled out.

LAZIO 1 CHIEVO 1

Lazio striker Hernan Crespo saw his 68th-minute penalty superbly saved by Chievo keeper Cristiano Lupatelli but eight minutes later Simone Inzaghi put Lazio ahead, tapping in after Lupatelli parried out a Crespo drive.

Five minutes from the end, though, Chievo defender Nicola Lagrottaglie headed home a corner to earn the Verona side a point.

PERUGIA 2 LECCE 1

Perugia opened the scoring in the 35th minute when Lecce goalkeeper Antonio Chimenti failed to reach a cross and allowed Fabio Bazzani to head home his sixth goal of the season.

Lecce were down to 10 men in the 43rd minute after Alessandro Colonnello's second yellow card, but drew level on the stroke of half-time as Davor Vugrinec was left completely unmarked to nod in Javier Chevantoni's free-kick.

Perugia dominated after the break but it was not until injury time that they made their numerical advantage count through a Giovanni Tedesco header.

PIACENZA 5 VENEZIA 0

Carmine Gautieri opened the scoring after six minutes and Serie A's top scorer Dario Hubner doubled Piacenza's lead just past the half-hour mark after a sharp turn inside the box.

Four minutes later Fabio Bileca brought down Nicola Caccia for a penalty, which Venezia goalkeeper Generoso Rossi managed to save but Hubner slotted home the rebound.

Just 45 seconds after the break Eusebio Di Francesco made it four with a stunning volley from the edge of the box and the former Roma mid-



Brescia midfielder Federico Giuntli, (right) pulls the jersey of Roma's Emerson Ferreira as they compete for a ball.

fielder completed the rout in the 68th minute.

UDINESE 0 BOLOGNA 1

The decisive goal came in the 12th minute when Julio Cruz's weak shot from the edge of the box slipped past Udinese goalkeeper Morgan Sanctus.

Bologna were forced to play the final few minutes with 10 men after Carlo Nervo was sent off for a tackle from behind, but Francesco Guidolin's side held on for their 11th win of the season to move up into fourth spot.

VERONA 0 INTER MILAN 3

Christian Vieri revived Inter's title hopes and ended Verona's run of six consecutive home wins in spectacular fashion.

The visitors broke the deadlock in the 31st minute as Vieri combined with midfielder Cristiano Zanetti who fired a low drive past Russia's Ruslan Nigmatullin, making his Serie A debut, after Fabrizio Ferron had been

taken off injured.

Vieri made it 2-0 with a bullet header from a Clarence Seedorf corner and secured the win with a fine solo effort.

JUVENTUS 2 FIORENTINA 1

Frenchman David Trezeguet scored his 15th goal of the season, giving Juventus the lead after 11 minutes with a fine shot on the turn.

Brazilian Adriano equalised three minutes later as he latched on to Domenico Morfeo's through ball and waltzed past Juventus goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon.

Alessandro Del Piero grabbed the winner on the half hour with a close-range finish.

AC MILAN 0 ATALANTA 0

Struggling AC Milan suffered through their fourth straight game at the San Siro without a win.

The home side staged a late siege on Atalanta goalkeeper Davide Pinato's goal but headers from Jose Mari, Roque Junior and Javi Moreno went just wide in an uninspired display.

PARMA 0 TORINO 1

Parma's three-game winning streak ended as Torino enjoyed only their second away victory of the season.

Torino grabbed the winner two minutes from time when Parma goalkeeper Sebastien Frey parried Marco Ferrante's header but could do nothing to stop Gianluca Comotto's follow-up.

This Week (February 24)

Atalanta vs Lazio
Bologna vs Verona
Cagliari vs Brescia
Fiorentina vs Lecce
Inter Milan vs Bayern
Piacenza vs Parma
AS Roma vs Perugia
Torino vs Juventus
Venezia vs AC Milan

Lazio 1 Chievo 1, Perugia 2 Lecce 1, Piacenza 5 Venezia 0, Udinese 0 Bologna 1, Verona 0 Inter 3, Brescia 0 Roma 0, Parma 0 Torino 1, AC Milan 0 Atalanta 0, Juventus 2 Fiorentina 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	23	13	8	2	43	16	47
Inter	23	13	7	3	40	19	46
Roma	23	12	10	1	33	14	46
Chievo	23	11	5	7	41	34	38
Bologna	23	11	5	7	25	21	38
Milan	23	8	11	4	31	24	35
Verona	23	9	5	9	31	35	32
Torino	23	8	7	8	26	26	31
Lazio	23	7	9	7	29	20	30
Perugia	23	5	6	9	26	31	20
Fiorentina	23	5	5	10	31	36	24
Piacenza	23	7	6	10	32	30	27
Parma	23	7	6	10	29	33	27
Arsenal	23	7	6	10	27	37	27
Brescia	23	4	4	15	25	37	16
Udinese	23	4	4	15	24	46	16
Venezia	23	2	4	17	20	57	8



Torino's Cristiano Lucarelli, (left) and Parma's Martin Djetou of France fight for the ball.



Richard Dunne of Manchester City brings down Craig Bellamy, (right) of Newcastle in the FA Cup Fifth Round match.

NEWCASTLE SQUEEZE THRU

Peruvian Nolberto Solano scored on the hour to give Newcastle United a 1-0 home win over 10-man Manchester City on Sunday and a place in the English FA Cup quarter-finals.

City defender Richard Dunne was sent off in the 28th minute of a pulsating fifth-round tie at St James' Park for pulling Craig Bellamy down

just short of the penalty box as the striker broke through on goal.

Right wing back Solano raced on to a high crossfield pass from Gary Speed, beat Nicky Weaver when the goalkeeper rushed out to meet him at the edge of his penalty box and tapped the ball into the net in the 59th minute.

First division City's former Newcastle manager Kevin

Keegan was welcomed back to rapturous applause before kickoff – but it was Bobby Robson's side who remained on course to reach the final for third time in five years.

Although Keegan was unhappy about the sending-off, he was also pleased for his former club.

"Bellamy was all over him and you have to give the advantage to the defender," he said.

"But no sour grapes. I genuinely wish Newcastle all the luck in the world.

If Bobby Robson can bring a trophy back here he'll have gone a little bit further than I did and I said to him afterwards I hope you win it now."

In the quarter-finals, Newcastle will be at home to Arsenal – who beat them in the 1998 final to complete the league and FA Cup double.

But in the second half, far from sitting back they took the game to Newcastle in typical Keegan swashbuckling style.

They actually dominated for more than 10 minutes after the Newcastle goal, creating a string of chances that almost brought them a deserved equaliser.

Costa Rica's Paulo



Tony Adams

Wanchope was close twice in two minutes, Shay Given saving his second effort well and the Ireland keeper also made a fine diving save from Darren Huckerby.

Weaver, at the other end, also made a number of saves to keep City in the hunt to the very end, especially diving stops to foil Aaron Hughes and Bellamy three times.

Newcastle substitute Clarence Acuna was just wide of the post and Speed's header was blocked on the line.

FA CUP QUARTER FINALS FIXTURES

West Brom v Fulham

Newcastle v Arsenal

Tottenham v Chelsea

Middlesbrough v Crewe or Everton

*Matches to be played on 9-10 March.

FIRST DIVISION

Birmingham 1 Barnsley 0, Burnley 1 Nottingham Forest 1, Grimsby 1 Sheffield United 0, Portsmouth 0 Rotherham 0, Sheffield Wednesday 2 Watford 1, Wimbledon 1 Crystal Palace 1, Wolves 3 Bradford 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man City	32	20	4	8	74	42	64
Wolverhampton	33	19	7	7	53	29	64
West Brom	33	18	6	9	38	23	60
Millwall	33	16	9	8	54	35	57
Burnley	33	16	9	8	55	46	57
Crystal Palace	34	17	3	14	59	48	54
Coventry	33	16	5	12	46	33	53
Norwich	33	16	5	12	44	42	53
Birmingham	32	14	8	10	46	36	50
Preston	33	13	11	9	52	44	50
Gillingham	33	13	8	12	49	46	47
Watford	33	12	8	13	48	40	44
Wimbledon	32	11	11	10	48	43	44
Notm Forest	34	10	14	10	37	32	44
Sheff Utd	34	10	13	11	37	41	43
Portsmouth	33	11	8	14	50	55	41
Bradford	32	11	6	15	54	60	39
Rotherham	34	8	13	13	40	51	37
Barnsley	34	8	13	13	48	61	37
Sheff Wed	34	9	10	15	38	54	37
Crewe	30	9	8	13	30	48	35
Walsall	33	8	7	18	36	55	31
Grimsby	34	7	10	17	27	54	31
Stockport	33	2	8	23	31	76	14

SECOND DIVISION

Bournemouth 1 Wycombe 2, Brighton 1 Huddersfield 0, Bristol City 3 Oldham 0, Bury 2 Cambridge United 2, Colchester 1 Blackpool 1, Notts County 0 Stoke 0, Peterborough 1 Brentford 1, Port Vale 4 Chesterfield 1, QPR 2 Wrexham 1, Wigan 4 Cardiff 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Reading	34	20	6	8	51	29	66
Brighton	33	18	10	5	46	33	64
Bristol City	33	17	7	9	53	34	58
Stoke	34	16	10	8	50	32	58
Brentford	33	16	8	9	57	35	56
Huddersfield	33	15	10	8	47	34	55
Oldham	33	14	10	9	57	43	52
QPR	34	14	10	10	47	38	52
Wycombe	32	14	10	8	47	38	52
Tranmere	31	14	8	9	50	37	50
Cardiff	33	13	11	9	48	40	50
Port Vale	34	14	7	13	45	45	49
Colchester	34	12	8	14	51	56	44
Swindon	34	11	10	13	36	45	43
Wigan	33	10	11	12	46	40	41
Chesterfield	32	10	9	13	41	44	39
Blackpool	32	9	12	11	40	51	39
Peterborough	32	10	8	14	44	43	38
Bournemouth	33	8	9	16	40	52	33
Bury	33	8	9	16	32	53	33
Wrexham	34	8	7	19	41	70	31
Northampton	32	8	4	20	34	57	28
Notts County	33	6	9	18	36	57	27
Cambridge Utd	33	5	9	19	31	64	24

THIS WEEK IN PREMIERSHIP

(Saturday, February 23)

Arsenal vs Fulham

West Ham vs Middlesbrough

Blackburn vs Ipswich

Chelsea vs Tottenham

Leeds vs Charlton

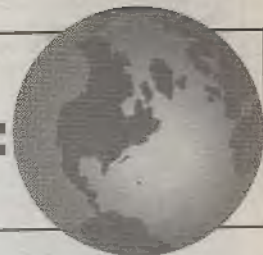
Leicester vs Derby

Liverpool vs Everton

Manchester United vs Aston Villa

Southampton vs Bolton

Sunderland vs Newcastle



Spanish Primera Liga

Valencia go top as Real crash to defeat

Valencia went back to the top of the Spanish league on Saturday with Argentine star Pablo Aimar scoring with just nine minutes left of their match at near-neighbours Villarreal to give them a 1-1 draw and the point to take them to the top of La Liga.

Villarreal had dominated the opening stages of their game with Valencia and took a deserved lead through Rodolfo Arruabarrena in the 53rd minute. But Aimar, who had come on as a second half substitute, levelled proceedings as Valencia took advantage of having an extra man following Manuel Victor's red-card in the 57th minute.

Defending champions Real Madrid's suffered a shock 2-1 defeat at Athletic Bilbao. Roberto Martinez Tiko, who had been doubtful for the match because of a heavy cold, scored after 29 minutes.

It was a deserved lead for the home side as Real 'keeper Iker Casillas had to pull off an early save from Joseba Etxeberria and Asier del Horno saw a shot come back off the post.

Del Horno made it 2-0 for Bilbao in the fourth minute of injury time at the end of the first half. Fernando Morientes pulled one back after 55 minutes for Madrid with his 17th goal of the season, but Vicente Del Bosque's team were unable to grab a second as the home side held out for the three points.

At the Nou Camp, Barcelona twice came from behind to beat fellow championship hopefuls Deportivo La Coruna 3-2 with Dutch international striker Patrick Kluivert scoring the



Barca striker Patrick Kluivert scored in their 3-2 come from behind victory against Deportivo La Coruna.

winner just three minutes from the end. A convincing victory could have put Deportivo on top and they looked to be heading for a win when Diego Tristan, with his 12th league goal of the season, gave the visitors the lead. However, veteran striker Luis Enrique, returning from injury, levelled for Charly Rexach's side just seven minutes later.

Substitute Gonzalez Sergio restored Deportivo's advantage with a 67th minute header before Argentinian international Javier Saviola brought the teams level for a second time

six minutes later. It was then left to Patrick Kluivert, who scored for Holland in their 1-1 friendly international draw with England in midweek, to grab the winner and the three points with a fine header just three minutes from the end.

Celta Vigo were held to a 0-0 draw at home by Malaga. Celta, with top scorer 11-goal Henrique Catanha in their ranks, dominated the match with Malaga but couldn't find the killer touch despite creating numerous openings.

THIS WEEK

(Sunday, 24 February)

La Coruna v Real Zaragoza
Espanyol v Las Palmas
Malaga v Villarreal
Mallorca v Sevilla
Real Betis v Celta Vigo
Real Madrid v CD Alaves
Sociedad v Valleciano
Tenerife v Osasuna
Valencia v Barcelona
Valladolid v Athletic Bilbao

Betis 1 Athletic 1, Tenerife 1 Sevilla 1, Espanyol 1 Valladolid 0, Real Madrid 7 Las Palmas 0, Malaga 1 Alaves 0, Deportivo 0 Villarreal 0, Real Sociedad 3 Zaragoza 1, Osasuna 1 Rayo Vallecano 0, Valencia 0 Celta Vigo 0, Mallorca 0 Barcelona 0.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pnt
Valencia	26	11	11	4	30-22	44
Real Madrid	26	12	7	7	49-30	43
Barcelona	26	12	7	7	42-23	43
Celta	26	10	12	4	42-27	42
Betis	26	11	9	6	27-22	42
Athletic	26	11	9	6	37-36	42
Deportivo	26	12	5	9	39-33	41
Alaves	26	12	3	11	24-23	39
Valladolid	26	10	6	10	28-39	36
Sevilla	26	9	8	9	39-31	35
Espanyol	26	9	7	10	31-39	34
Osasuna	26	8	9	9	23-28	33
Villarreal	26	8	8	10	28-30	32
Malaga	26	7	11	8	28-30	32
Zaragoza	26	9	5	12	26-37	32
Las Palmas	26	7	9	10	25-28	30
Real Sociedad	26	8	4	14	32-38	28
Mallorca	26	7	6	13	28-33	27
Rayo Vallecano	26	7	6	13	31-41	27
Tenerife	26	6	6	14	18-37	24



Real Sociedad's Inigo Idiakez, (right) tries to shield the ball from Sevilla's Francisco Javier Casquero.

WORLD LEAGUES

DUTCH EREDIVISIE

AZ 0 Ajax 0, Twente 1 NAC 2, Vitesse 2 Feyenoord 1, NEC 0 PSV 4, Heerenveen 3 Willem II 0, De Graafschap 2 Roda 1, Den Bosch 1 Sparta 1.



Feyenoord's Japanese-born midfielder, Shinji Ono, contests the ball with an opponent.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
1. Ajax	22	14	4	4	49-25	46
2. Feyenoord	22	14	3	5	48-18	45
3. PSV	23	13	4	6	49-26	43
4. Heerenveen	23	12	6	5	41-16	42
5. NAC	23	11	5	7	40-37	38
6. Vitesse	23	10	8	5	26-24	38
7. Utrecht	23	9	7	7	43-34	34
8. RKC	23	9	4	10	30-27	31
9. NEC	23	8	5	10	21-38	29
10. De Graafschap	22	8	4	10	32-35	28
11. Willem II	23	6	10	7	35-39	28
12. Den Bosch	22	6	8	8	30-33	26
13. AZ	22	7	5	10	22-27	26
14. Twente	23	5	10	8	29-31	25
15. Roda	23	7	4	12	22-35	25
16. Groningen	23	6	4	13	26-46	22
17. Sparta	23	4	10	9	24-45	22
18. Fortuna	22	2	5	15	20-51	11

BELGIAN EERSTEKLASSE

Brugge 1 Anderlecht 0, Standard 2 Westerlo 2, Gent 3 Antwerp 3, Aalst 0 La Louviere 0, Lommel 3 Beveren 1, Lierse 1 Genk 2, Germinal 1 Sint-Truiden 0, RWD Molenbeek 1, Mouscron 1, Charleroi 1 Lokeren 0.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pnt
1. Brugge	23	17	1	5	55-26	52
2. Genk	22	13	8	1	62-30	47
3. Anderlecht	22	13	6	3	51-24	45
4. Gent	23	12	7	4	41-31	43
5. Lokeren	23	12	6	5	34-22	42
6. Standard	22	12	5	5	42-27	41
7. Mouscron	23	11	3	9	47-30	36
8. Germinal	22	8	8	6	43-32	32
9. Sint-Truiden	23	9	4	10	33-33	31
10. Charleroi	23	8	4	11	23-43	28
11. Lommel	23	7	6	10	35-40	27
12. Westerlo	23	7	5	11	38-45	26
13. Molenbeek	23	7	4	12	31-41	25
14. Lierse	23	5	6	12	35-45	21
15. Antwerp	23	5	6	12	32-44	21
16. La Louviere	23	4	8	11	25-44	20
17. Aalst	23	4	4	15	18-51	16
18. Beveren	23	2	7	14	24-61	13



Anderlecht midfielder, Gilles De Bilde, (right) fights for the ball.

TURKISH FIRST DIVISION

Benfica 2 Bezenenses 1, Pacos Ferreira 0 Vitoria Guimaraes 0, Varzim 1 Alverca 0, Santa Clara 1 Braga 0, Salgueiros 1 Beira Mar 1, Sporting 1 Farense 0, Vitoria Setubal 1 Porto 4, Boavista 0 Gil Vicente 0, Maritimo v Uniao Leiria.



Sporting Lisbon midfielder, Joao Pinto, in an aerial contest with Ferreira of Farense.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
1. Sporting	23	15	5	3	51	50
2. Boavista	23	15	4	4	38	49
3. Porto	23	14	3	6	41	45
4. Benfica	23	11	9	3	42	42
5. Uniao Leiria	22	10	7	5	37	37
6. Vitoria Gui.	23	10	6	7	27	36
7. Bezenenses	23	10	4	9	32	34
8. Santa Clara	23	9	6	8	23	33
9. Maritimo	22	10	2	10	28	32
10. Pacos Ferreira	23	7	9	7	28	30
11. Braga	23	7	8	8	27	29
12. Gil Vicente	23	7	5	11	25	26
13. Beira Mar	23	6	7	10	35	25
14. Salgueiros	23	6	5	12	20	23
15. V. Setubal	23	5	6	12	24	21
16. Farense	23	5	5	13	18	20
17. Alverca	23	5	4	14	25	19
18. Varzim	23	4	5	14	18	17



WORLD

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

Celtic stay top but their lead kept in check

Glasgow Rangers cut cross-town rivals Celtic's lead at the top of the Scottish top flight to ten points following its comfortable 3-0 win over Motherwell at Ibrox.

Recalled midfielder Russell Latapy gave the Glasgow giant a 14th minute lead before Tore Andre Flo doubled the lead four minutes before the break. The Norwegian striker has now scored 17 times this season if only Henrik Larsson (23) has scored more goals in the Scottish Premier League. Dutch defender Fernando Ricksen sealed the points with the third on 85 minutes.

St Johnstone has kept its slim survival hope alive after crushing third placed Livingston 3-0 at McDiarmid Park. Goals from Paul Hartley, Keigan Parker and Graeme Jones sealed the Saints' win to end an eight match losing streak and despite the precious win, St Johnstone are still favourite for relegation as it lies nine points adrift of its nearest rival.

Hibernian's winless streak under their new manager continued after it was held to a 1-1 draw with Dunfermline at Easter Road. Steven Hampshire gave Franck Sauzees the lead just before the hour but Derek Townsley claimed a point for the home side with a 78th minute equaliser. Mid table Aberdeen are just three points shy of Livingston after thumping Dundee United 4-0 at Pittodrie.

A Derek Young double and singles from Robbie Winters and debutant Leon Mike sealed the crushing victory. Hearts snatched an unlikely point in a six-goal thriller with Kilmarnock at Rugby Park.

Stephane Mahe gave the visiting side the advantage five minutes before the break but Killie shot back early in the second half.

Goals from Craig Dargo after 46th minute, Tommy Johnson's 52th minute and Stephen Murray's 66th minute strike put the home side well in control but a Stephen Pressley penalty conversion seven minutes from time set up a grandstand finish. Hearts capped the comeback on 86 minutes with Tommi Gronlund netting the equaliser.

Reigning champions Celtic maintained their 13-point lead at the top of the Scottish Premier League with a 3-0 win away to Dundee on Sunday but saw star striker Henrik Larsson go off injured.

Sweden forward Larsson scored one of Celtic's three goals, his 24th Premier League goal in 28 matches, before hobbling off with what appeared to be a hamstring strain.

His compatriot Johan Mjallby and Wales striker John Hartson netted Celtic's other two goals.

The result leaves the Glasgow giants needing just five more victories to keep the championship trophy at Parkhead with nine games remaining.

The champions completed the scoring in fine style 15 minutes from time.

Moravcik found Hartson with a wonderful ball and the Welshman controlled it, took his time and then chipped Dundee keeper Julian Speroni.



Celtic's Bob Balde holds off Dundee's Massimo Beghetto.

Dundee 0 Celtic 3, Aberdeen 4 Dundee United 0, Hibernian 1 Dunfermline 1, Kilmarnock 3 Hearts 3, Rangers 3 Motherwell 0, St. Johnstone 3 Livingston 0

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
1 Celtic	29	26	2	1	71-14	80
2 Rangers	29	20	7	2	66-22	67
3 Livingston	28	13	8	7	39-28	47
4 Aberdeen	29	13	5	11	42-40	44
5 Kilmarnock	29	10	8	11	33-36	38
6 Hearts	29	10	6	13	38-39	36
7 Dunfermline	29	9	7	13	34-51	34
8 Dundee Utd	29	8	8	13	29-51	32
9 Dundee	28	8	7	13	27-42	31
10 Motherwell	29	8	6	15	39-53	30
11 Hibernian	29	5	10	14	34-48	25
12 St. Johnstone	29	4	4	21	20-48	16

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA



FC Cologne's Marc Zellweger vies with SV Werder Bremen Brazilian Alilton.

Champions on song as Dortmund slip to a draw

Bayern Munich and Kaiserslautern moved back into title contention in the German Bundesliga after leaders Borussia Dortmund and second placed Bayern Leverkusen could only manage draws.

Borussia remain as the league's top side after drawing 1-1 in the Ruhr derby against Schalke 04. Neils Oude Kamphuis had given Schalke the lead in the 17th minute with a cracking drive from long range but Mathias Sammer's side drew level five minutes after the break through Brazilian mid-fielder Ewerthon.

Second-placed Bayer Leverkusen failed to capitalise on Dortmund's minor hiccup as it was held to a 2-2 draw at lowly St Pauli. The visiting side led through Ulf Kirsten but Marcel Rath pulled St Pauli level. German ace Michael Ballack restored Leverkusen's advantage but a last minute penalty converted by Thomas Meggle salvaged a point for the host.

European and German champion Bayern Munich found the form that is expected of them in their comfortable 2-0 victory at Freiburg. First half goals from French left back Bixente Lizarazu and Brazilian striker Giovane Elber was welcome relief for the Bavarians.

Hertha Berlin have earned full points in the two games where new coach Falko Gotz has been in charge, two strikes from Michael Preetz and another from Stefan Beinlich handing them a 3-0 away win over SV Hanburg.

VfB Stuttgart beat VfL Wolfsburg 2-1 in a mid-table clash and Borussia Monchengladbach climbed away from the relegation zone with a 2-1 home win over SV Hanburg.

Energie Cottbus bagged three valuable points to climb from the relegation zone with a fine 3-0 win over fellow strugglers Hansa Rostock.

Energie 3 Hansa 0, Cologne 0 Werder 0, Freiburg 0 Bayern 2, Stuttgart 2 Wolfsburg 1, 1860 Munchen 0 Hertha 3, Kaiserslautern 2 Nurnberg 1, Borussia (M) 2 Hamburger 1, St. Pauli 2 Bayer 2, Borussia (D) 1 Schalke 04 1.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
1. Borussia (D)	23	14	6	3	38-16	48
2. Bayer	23	14	4	5	53-29	46
3. Kaiserslautern	23	14	3	6	45-29	45
4. Schalke 04	23	12	6	5	36-23	42
5. Bayern	23	12	5	6	41-19	41
6. Werder	23	12	4	7	35-26	40
7. Hertha	23	11	6	6	36-27	39
8. Stuttgart	23	9	7	7	29-25	34
9. 1860 Munchen	23	10	3	10	34-38	33
10. Wolfsburg	23	8	6	9	37-33	30
11. Hamburger	23	7	6	10	34-37	27
12. Hansa	23	7	4	12	22-32	25
13. Borussia (M)	23	5	8	10	25-36	23
14. Freiburg	23	5	8	10	25-37	23
15. Energie	23	6	5	12	22-38	23
16. Nurnberg	23	6	4	13	22-40	22
17. St. Pauli	23	3	7	13	25-45	16
18. Cologne	23	3	6	14	11-40	15

FRENCH LEAGUE

Title race opens up as Lorient hold Lens

Championnat leaders Lens were held to a 1-1 draw by bottom placed Lorient while the big movers were Auxerre who climbed to third in the table with a 2-1 away win at Troyes.

Charles-Edouard Coridon had scored the equaliser just before half-time.

It was his fifteenth of the season and possibly his best, a thunderbolt left-foot drive after dummifying past one defender and racing past another.

Auxerre's 20-year-old striker Djibril Cisse scored one and made one in their win at Troyes, showing the class that has Europe's top clubs watching him while Nicolas Gousse pulled one back on as an 80th minute substitute, showing the class that has Europe's top clubs watching him while Nicolas Gousse pulled one back for the home side, where Nick Carle the recent import from the Olympic Sharks came on as an 80th minute substitute.

In Saturday's early match, Lille beat champions Nantes 1-0 away to end a terrible run of six games without a win. Australian striker Mile Sterjovski scored the goal 20 minutes from time after a fine run from Dagui Bakari opened the Canaries back four wide open.

The Portuguese international did get his second, and his 19th league goal of the season, with a 25-yard free-kick after 52 minutes. A minute later Montpellier's Carlos Jorge Rui Pataca pulled one but the match finished 3-1.

The bad-tempered Brittany derby between Guingamp and Rennes ended in a 1-1 draw. Cedric Bardon scored from a free-kick after 29 minutes and Christophe Le Roux equalised from the penalty spot after a goalbound ball was handled on the line by Guingamp captain Claude Michel, who was sent off for the offence.

Monaco welcomed back Shabani Nonda from the African Nations Cup and Cyril Rool from suspension but they could not unlock the Sedan defence in a 0-0 draw. French first division: results/standings

Lyon climbed to within two points of French league leaders Lens and dealt a shattering blow to Paris Saint Germain's title aspirations with a crushing 3-0 victory over the capital side on Sunday.

An own-goal from PSG captain Frederic Dehu, a poacher's classic from Brazilian hit-man Sonny Anderson and a 20-yard strike from Juninho buried the visitors in an action-packed second-half at Lyon.



Marseille's Lamine Sakho fights for the ball with Metz' Patrick Moreau before scoring for his team.

Olympique (L) 3 Paris Saint Germain 0, Olympique (M) 1 Metz 0, Bastia 3 Sochaux 0, Bordeaux 3 Montpellier 1, Guingamp 1 Rennais 1, Lens 1 Lorient 1, Troyes 1 Auxerre 2, Sedan 0 Monaco 0, Nantes 0 Lille 1.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pnt
1. Lens	25	15	7	3	41-17	52
2. Olympique (L)	26	15	5	6	53-27	50
3. Auxerre	24	12	9	3	32-21	45
4. Paris Saint Germain	26	10	12	4	32-20	42
5. Lille	25	10	9	6	29-24	39
6. Bordeaux	25	10	8	7	25-20	38
7. Troyes	25	10	6	9	32-29	36
8. Olympique (M)	26	8	9	9	25-29	33
9. Montpellier	26	7	11	8	22-22	32
10. Monaco	26	8	8	10	27-29	32
11. Sochaux	26	8	8	10	32-35	32
12. Bastia	26	9	4	13	28-35	31
13. Nantes	26	8	5	13	24-32	29
14. Sedan	24	6	10	8	26-26	28
15. Rennais	26	6	8	12	26-39	26
16. Guingamp	26	6	8	12	24-42	26
17. Metz	24	7	3	14	16-30	24
18. Lorient	26	6	6	14	35-52	24

WORLD LEAGUES

IRISH FIRST DIVISION

St Patrick's Athletic 3 Cork City 2, Bray Wanderers 0 Shelbourne 0, Monaghan United 0 University College Dublin 3, Longford Town 1 Derry City 0, Dundalk 1 Galway United 1, Bohemians 1 Shamrock Rovers 1.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pts
1. Shelbourne	27	16	5	6	45	53
2. Shamrock Rov.	27	15	6	6	49	51
3. St Patrick's A	26	14	7	5	45	49
4. Cork City	27	12	7	8	40	43
5. Bohemians	26	10	8	8	41	38
6. Derry City	26	10	8	8	31	38
7. Uni. Col. Dublin	27	9	9	9	34	36
8. Bray Wanderers	26	9	8	9	38	35
9. Longford Town	27	8	9	10	34	33
10. Dundalk	27	5	11	11	24	26
11. Galway United	25	5	4	16	21	19
12. Monaghan Utd	27	2	6	19	18	12

GREEK FIRST DIVISION

Ethnikos Asteras 1 Panachaiki 1, Olympiakos 3 PAOK Salonika 2, Xanthi 1 AEK Athens 1, Aris Salonika 1 Aegaleo 0, OFI Crete 0 Panionios 0, Panathinaikos 1 Akrotiris 0, Iraklis 3 Ionikos 0.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pts
1. AEK Athens	16	11	1	4	39	34
2. Panathinaikos	16	10	3	3	31	33
3. Olympiakos	16	9	5	2	38	32
4. PAOK Salonika	16	9	4	3	30	31
5. Xanthi	16	8	5	3	26	29
6. Iraklis	16	6	6	4	20	24
7. Aris Salonika	16	6	5	5	18	23
8. OFI	16	6	4	6	18	22
9. Panionios	16	5	5	6	20	20
10. Ionikos	16	3	5	8	12	29
11. Ethnikos Asteras	15	3	4	8	13	21
12. Aegaleo	16	3	3	10	17	12
13. Akrotiris	15	2	3	10	13	9
14. Panachaiki	16	1	5	10	15	8

TURKISH FIRST DIVISION

Besiktas 1 Ankaragucu 2, Goztepe 3 Kocaelispor 0, Trabzonspor 2 Istanbulspor 0, Antalyaspor 2 Rizespor 2, Fenerbahce 1 Galatasaray SK 0, Samsunspor 2 Bursaspor 3, Malatyaspor 0 Denizlispor 0, Gencerbirligi SK 3 Yozgatspor 2, Gaziantepspor 0 Diyarbakirspor 1.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
1. Galatasaray SK	23	15	5	3	55-27	50
2. Besiktas	23	14	5	4	55-27	47
3. Fenerbahce	23	15	1	7	46-24	46
4. Ankaragucu	23	13	3	7	53-37	42
5. Gaziantepspor	23	10	4	9	37-32	34
6. Bursaspor	23	10	4	9	33-39	34
7. Trabzonspor	23	9	5	9	36-36	32
8. Istanbulspor	23	9	5	9	20-23	32
9. Goztepe	23	8	7	8	23-36	31
10. Denizlispor	23	7	8	8	41-33	29
11. Diyarbakirspor	23	8	4	11	35-41	28
12. Gencerbirligi	23	7	7	9	32-38	28
13. Kocaelispor	23	8	4	11	27-38	28
14. Rizespor	23	6	9	8	29-32	27
15. Malatyaspor	23	8	1	14	24-41	25
16. Samsunspor	23	6	4	13	21-35	22
17. Antalyaspor	23	5	7	11	33-50	22
18. Yozgatspor	23	5	5	13	32-43	20

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

After Round 19

	TOTAL							PTS	HOME							AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	BYE	F	A		P	W	D	L	F	A		P	W	D	L	F	A	
PERTH GLORY	17	13	3	1	2	38	15	42	9	7	2	0	18	6		8	6	1	1	20	9	
NEWCASTLE UNITED	18	8	8	2	1	24	16	32	8	5	3	0	11	4		9	3	4	2	12	11	
BRISBANE STRIKERS	17	8	5	4	2	31	24	29	9	4	2	3	16	13		8	4	5	1	15	11	
OLYMPIC SHARKS	17	8	3	6	2	23	14	27	9	5	3	1	13	4		8	3	0	5	10	8	
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	18	8	1	9	1	30	30	25	9	4	1	4	12	14		9	4	0	5	18	16	
PARRAMATTA POWER	18	7	4	7	1	20	21	25	9	5	1	3	12	9		9	2	3	4	8	12	
NORTHERN SPIRIT	18	6	5	7	1	24	29	23	9	3	2	4	10	15		9	3	3	3	14	14	
SOUTH MELBOURNE	17	5	5	7	2	16	19	20	11	4	2	5	11	13		6	1	3	2	5	5	
MARCONI STALLIONS	17	5	5	7	2	19	23	20	9	3	3	3	13	14		8	2	2	4	6	9	
SYDNEY UNITED	18	5	4	9	1	21	28	19	9	1	3	5	10	18		9	5	1	3	11	10	
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	18	4	7	7	1	17	26	19	7	2	1	5	6	12		10	2	4	4	10	14	
ADELAIDE CITY	17	3	7	7	2	22	24	16	8	3	4	1	16	10		9	0	3	6	6	14	
KINGZ FC	18	3	5	10	1	22	38	14	9	3	3	3	10	18		9	0	2	7	12	22	

SOUTH MELBOURNE

(P Trimboli 49, P Buljan 83)

NORTHERN SPIRIT

(P Cardozo 59pen)

Venue: Bob Jane Stadium. Crowd: 4,256. Referee: P. Green.
Cautions: R Liparoti (SM) 28', J Hutchinson (NS) 24', C Foster (NS) 25', S Bell (NS) 36', J Watts (NS) 51'

Teams: **SOUTH MELBOURNE:** Petkovic, Iosifidis, De Amicis, Durakovic, Liparoti, Coveny, Trimboli, Sekulovski, Murdocca, Lia (Buljan 74), Boutsianis (Bell 93)
NORTHERN SPIRIT: Henderson, Watts, Bell, Spencer, Trajkovski (Griffiths 89), Thomas (Enes 71), Foster, Cervinski, Cardozo, Hutchinson (Cranney 63), Cartwright.

WOLLONGONG WOLVES

(S Young 5)

ADELAIDE CITY FORCE

(S Tunbridge 46)

Venue: WIN Stadium. Crowd: 2,508. Referee: M. Breeze.
Cautions: D Huxley (WW) 28', D Mennillo (WW) 65', B Farah (WW) 86'

Teams: **WOLLONGONG WOLVES:** Anastasiadis, Ceccoli, Stanton, Cervinski, Castro, Young, Sekulovski (Sharland 59), Anthopoulos (Babic 78), Huxley, Blake, Mennillo (Farah 73).
ADELAIDE CITY FORCE: Godley, Kemp, Fyle, Kovacevic, Pantelis (Saric 83), Veart, Vidmar, Moreira, Tunbridge, Rees, Goulding (Karlovic 83).

BRISBANE STRIKERS

(P Foster 10, 84, 86, F Rech 61)

PARRAMATTA POWER

(J Buonavoglia 82)

Venue: Ballymore. Crowd: 3,081. Referee: C. Zetter.
Cautions: F Rech (BS) 61', P Bennett (PP) 54', D Barrett (PP) 60'

Teams: **BRISBANE STRIKERS:** Kearton (Baldock 88), Alagich, Stefanutto, McKain, McLaren, Grierson, Rech (Baird 75), Foster, Carbone, McKay, Drake (Trajanovski 57).
PARRAMATTA POWER: Pogliacomini, Barrett, Langdon, Tobin, O'Sullivan, Arambasic (Holman 60), Brown, Fitzsimmons (Thompson 68), Buonavoglia, Eagleton, Bennett (Bojic 77).

MARCONI STALLIONS

(J Maisano 13)

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

(J Porter 39, A Da Costa 43, I De Jesus 90)

Venue: Marconi Stadium. Crowd: 2,005. Referee: B. Hugo.
Cautions: D Longo (MS) 17', S Webb (MS) 55', B Renaud 82'

Teams: **MARCONI STALLIONS:** Turnbull, Beauchamp, Costanzo, Longo, Renaud, Last (Brownlie 45), Maisano, Tome, Bozinovski, Webb (Brosque 70), Gibson (Bove 83).
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS: John, Rajher (Jolic 68), R Vargas, Ognjenovski, Horvat, Marth, Marusic (Sulemani 87), Porter (Kiratzoglou 82), Da Costa, A Vargas, De Jesus.

KINGZ FC

SYDNEY UNITED

(C Menapi 22, A Deur 62, G Mendez 88)

Venue: Ericsson Stadium. Crowd: 2,842. Referee: P. Mur.
Cautions: Nil

Teams: **KINGZ FC:** Theoklitos, Perry, Osman (Douglas 83), Goutzioulis, Urlovic, Vlahos, Ngata, Markovski (Burton 60), Hooker, Banks (Wylie 83), Jackson.
SYDNEY UNITED: Knezevic, Savoca, Arrarte, Mendez (Jedinak 88), Deur, Genc, Menapi, Bilokapic, Watkins (Cevenini 62), Sinozic, Zelic (Cindric 31).

OLYMPIC SHARKS

(J North 89)

NEWCASTLE UNITED

(J Griffiths 36 pen)

Venue: Toyota Park. Crowd: 6,256. Referee: M. Shield.
Cautions: A Durante (OS) 10', P Kohler (OS) 41', S Laybutt (OS) 58', M Bingley (NU) 30', J Griffiths (NU) 38.
Red Cards: A Durante (OS) 91', J Griffiths (NU) 58'

Teams: **OLYMPIC SHARKS:** Bolton, Laybutt (Srhoj 72), Kohler (Macallister 60), Wilson, Pondeljak, Halpin, North, Milicic (Ishida 78), Packer, Durante, Juric.
NEWCASTLE UNITED: Beltrame, Roberts, Zoricich, Bingley, Griffiths, Tsekemis, Bailie, Blagojevic, Schirripa (Dodd 94), Masi (McBreen 68), Middleby.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Paul Foster: Scored a hat-trick for the Strikers and helped moved them up into third place.

LEADING GOALSCORERS

Name	Club	Total
DAMIAN MORI	Perth Glory	13
FOSTER Paul	Brisbane Strikers	12
DESPOTOVSKI Bobby	Perth Glory	10
PORTER Joel	Melbourne Knights	10
MILICIC Ante	Olympic Sharks	9
DA COSTA Toto	Melbourne Knights	9
RECH Fernando	Brisbane Strikers	9
URLOVIC Paul	Kingz FC	8
CARDOZO Pablo	Northern Spirit	8

ROUND 20

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 22

Northern Spirit	vs	Marconi Stallions
Newcastle Utd	vs	Brisbane Strikers
Adelaide City	vs	Olympic Sharks

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 23

Melb Knights	vs	Perth Glory
Parramatta Power	vs	South Melbourne

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 24

Sydney United	vs	W'gong Wolves
Kingz FC	-	Bye

BYE - PERTH GLORY